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WEEKLY FREE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

www.kentnews.co.uk January 11, 2015

EDF ENERGY London and South of England Media Awards

East edition No 642

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# Extremist voices must not drown out others

IN violent scenes that shocked the world this week, nine journalists, two policemen and an office caretaker were murdered at a magazine headquarters in Paris, in an act of bloody vengeance.

The masked gunmen were said to have shouted that they were avenging their prophet as they committed the atrocities.

The attack comes after the satirical publication, Charlie Hebdo, continued to publish cartoons featuring Mohammed, despite immense pressure to stop.

As a outlet that satirised all aspects of modern culture, the cartoonists refused to let one group be immune from their pencil-sharp observations.

"I would rather die on my feet than live on my knees," said publisher Stephane "Charb" Charbonnier - a chilling prediction of his own death, prompted by his defence of our right to freedom of speech.

It is all too easy, in the aftermath of senseless violence to condemn entire religious groups but it is important that we do not let the vicious acts of a few extremists pollute our view of the religious communities who make up an important part of our county's rich diversity. We offer our condolences to the families of those who died.

In other news, we look at the plight of St George's Memorial Chapel at Biggin Hill Airport – a monument to the 454 air crew based at Biggin Hill who died in the Second World War. The MoD are unable to fund the £50,000 running costs, so the airport has stepped in to offer its help to this important landmark.

Elsewhere, we report on the latest on Manston Airport and look at a scheme in Margate aimed at providing early help to people struggling with alcohol.

We also speak to a lawyer and relationship counselling organisation about what to do if you are considering separating from your partner, as so many do at this time of year.

Have a great weekend.


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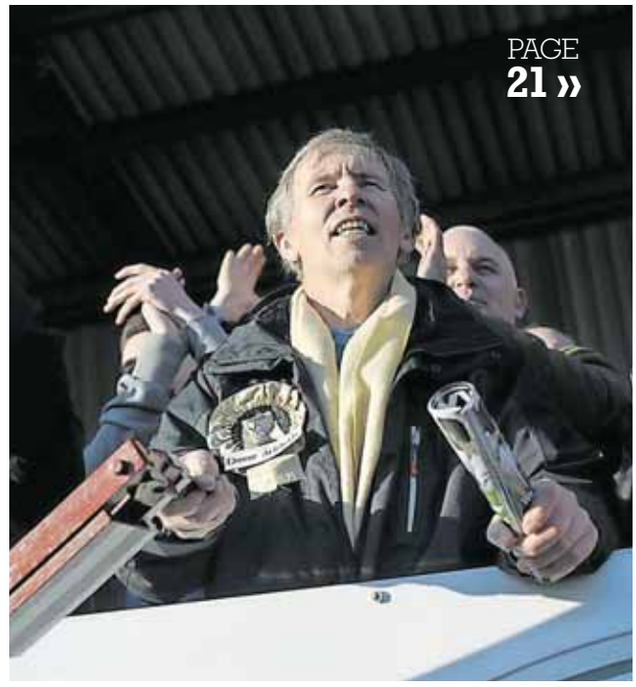

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# Battle of Britain chapel rescued after funds axed

**Sarah Linney**
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**CHAPEL:** Ministry of Defence announced it intended to withdraw funding for St George's Memorial Chapel

A KENT memorial chapel built to honour hundreds of air crew who died in the Second World War looks set to have its future secured by the generosity of Biggin Hill airport.

The Ministry of Defence had announced that it intended to withdraw funding for the St George's Memorial Chapel at the airport in March next year.

A public outcry followed, with almost 30,000 people signing a petition to save the chapel.

But this week the airport offered to provide the £50,000 a year the chapel needs to stay open - and is waiting to see if the offer will be accepted.

Managing director Will Curtis said: "The chapel is a focal point where people who want to pay their respects can come and we think it's an extremely important part of our heritage.

"I think it's very important that the men and women who served here are remembered, and that we remember that human conflict is very costly. For future generations to understand war is the best way not to repeat those mistakes."

The chapel, which is an active church, was built in 1951 as a memorial to the 454 Allied air crew who were killed while operating from Biggin Hill. Winston Churchill said that it should remain in permanence.

It is open daily and visited by around 12,000 people a year.

However, the MoD said that "given the diminishing size of the congregation", continuing to fund the chapel would be "an inappropriate use of public funds".

It had made it clear that it would try to find someone to take it over and would not relinquish responsibility for the chapel until this happened.

Martin Mitchener, who started the petition, said he had been contacted by people from across the world.

"At one point we were getting more than 800 signatures an hour," he said.

"The chapel is a beautiful place and I think everyone has their own reasons for wanting to save it. It is a place I come to mourn and remember my family members.

"The MoD could afford it if they wanted to."

Geoffrey Greensmith, vice chairman of the Friends of the chapel, added: "If we had lost the Battle of Britain, this country would have been invaded.

"Those people gave their lives. It's up to the rest of us to keep the chapel going."

## Paramount Park team release statistics after second consultations

THE team behind the London Paramount project have released statistics from their recent consultations, suggesting that responses have been very positive so far.

London Paramount is a proposed theme park and leisure complex to be built on the Swanscombe Peninsula and due for completion in 2020.

The developer claims the complex, which would cost around £2 billion, would create around 27,000 jobs.

More than 2,000 people attended the public consultations, made up of a dozen events spread over two weeks in November 2014

Visitors were invited to complete a feedback form answering questions on the draft masterplan, emerging transport proposals and the approach taken in relation to ecology and environment of the area.

Overall, 786 feedback forms were filled in, with 82 per cent of respondents indicating that they approve of the draft masterplan for the resort, 63 per cent of respondents approving of the emerging transport proposals and 75 per cent of respondents stated that they approve of plans to protect the ecology and environment.

Fenlon Dunphy, on behalf of London Paramount, said: "To receive such positive feedback at this stage in the design process is hugely encouraging and demonstrates the real enthusiasm people are showing.

"While a majority approve of the draft masterplan, emerging transport proposals and plans to protect the local ecology and environment we know there is much more to discuss in the next several months prior to the submission of our planning application.

"The next stage of public consultation events will be a series of workshop events in spring 2015 which will provide an opportunity for community members, stakeholders and industry specialists to come together to discuss and debate a number of different topics."

## Farage accused of 'point scoring' after Paris shooting

PROSPECTIVE Parliamentary Candidate for Thanet South, and Ukip leader Nigel Farage, has been criticised for comments he made during an interview about the attack on French magazine Charlie Hebdo in which 12 people died.

He said: ''We've got people living in these countries, holding our passports, who hate us. It does make one question the whole really gross attempt at encouraged division within society that we have had in the past few decades in the name of multiculturalism.''

A number of political leaders have criticised the remarks.

Nick Clegg criticised the Ukip leader during his regular LBC radio phone in, saying he was 'dismayed' that Mr Farage's 'first reflex is to make political points.'

## Dartford MP is 'glad to see the back' of troubled Tesco

TROUBLED retail giant Tesco announced it will abandon plans to develop a new superstore in Dartford.

The area's MP, Gareth Johnson, said that the retailer had treated the area 'appallingly'.

Mr Johnson said: ''This announcement ends a very frustrating and lamentable period for Dartford.

''Tesco has treated Dartford in an appalling manner and created uncertainty for years.

''I personally will be glad to see the back of Tesco but the important thing now is to work on Dartford's future – a development in Lowfield Street without a Tesco store.''

Dave Lewis, Tesco's CEO said plans had been shelved after poor performance.

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seven days

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## Court makes five Kent shops forfeit legal highs

MORE than 800 legal highs seized at five Kent branches of UK Skunkworks have been permanently forfeited after court action by KCC Trading Standards.

The shops in Gravesend, Maidstone, Canterbury, Ashford and Sheerness have been prevented from selling the products since enforcement action by KCC Trading Standards in July. In a co-ordinated series of raids, officers from Kent and Medway Trading Standards, with the support of police, seized samples of the legal highs from shops across the county and suspended the sale of many more.

Dartford magistrates said at a hearing on January 5 they were satisfied the products were unsafe and that there were deficiencies in their labelling.

# Scrutiny committee to review the decision on Manston purchase order

**By Maria Chiorando**
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MANSTON's coffin is littered with final nails - and again it seems the troubled airport will not be left to rest in peace, following news that Thanet District Council's decision not to pursue a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) will be reviewed by a council committee.

The airport has been in the news since it was bought by reclusive Scottish business woman Ann Gloag for £1 in October 2013.

Despite pledging to keep the airport running for at least two years, its doors were shut in May 2014, causing around 150 job losses.

Despite three offers from American investment company RiverOak – rumoured to be between £5 and £7 million – to buy the site, Ms Gloag refused to sell.

Thanet District Council pledged to look into undertaking a Compulsory Purchase Order - where land is obtained by a body without the consent of the owner.

**GROUNDED:** Manston in action

The council maintained that it would only undertake this with financial backing from a full-indemnity partner.

Although RiverOak offered to partner the council, as a result of market research which suggested the airport might not prosper financially, the council finally decided against the CPO option in December.

In the meantime, two of the developers behind Sandwich's Discovery Park had acquired a majority stake in the land, for a rumoured £20 million. The site has now been designated as mixed-use.

Now, in a move that will delight Manston-fans, the council's scrutiny committee of cross-party councillors says it wants to review whether "appropriate procedures and processes were followed in reaching the decision".

While the committee may not overturn the council's decision, it can ask the cabinet to rethink the matter.

The decision will be reviewed at a meeting next week.

MPs will also be discussing the future of Manston Airport at a Commons select committee in February.

**M25:** The scene of traffic officer's death

## Censure after traffic officer death on M25

THE Highways Agency has been issued with a Crown Censure – the equivalent of a criminal prosecution – for safety failings after Gravesend grandfather, John Walmsley, an experienced traffic officer with the agency, was killed by an out of control car.

The 59-year-old had been sent to an incident on the M25 on September 25, 2012. While he waited for a tow-truck for a stranded vehicle, a car skidded across the carriageway and hit him.

He died at the scene. The driver was subsequently convicted of causing death by careless driving.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) took the decision to deliver a censure after finding fault in the agency's quarterly supervision checks at its Dartford outstation.

HSE inspector Guy Widdowson said the incident may have been preventable.

He said: "Mr Walmsley, who had worked as a traffic officer for seven years, was killed because he was not standing behind the safety barrier when a car crashed on the motorway.

"If the Highways Agency had conducted the necessary supervisory checks, he may have followed the correct safety procedures and prevented him from working the way he did."

## Search for Patrick Lamb continuing

THE girlfriend of missing man Patrick Lamb has thanked the public for their help searching for him and urged anyone with information to come forward.

Patrick Lamb, 28, who lives in Greenhithe, went missing after a night out with his friends in Maidstone on December 12.

He had booked a room at the Grange Moor Hotel in St Michael's Road, Maidstone, but never returned.

CCTV captured a number of images of Mr Lamb, who was last seen in Fairmeadow at around midnight on December 13.

The images show him stumbling, sparking fears he may have hit his head and could be hurt.

Natasha Morgan, his girlfriend of six years, said: ''The public have been amazing, overwhelmingly helpful and really lovely. Thanks from the bottom of my heart, from me and Pat's family,''

Anyone with information can contact police on 101 or visit www.abbatalk.com/pat.

## Drug smuggler jailed after sniffer dog find

A LITHUANIAN lorry driver has been jailed for five years and four months after attempting to smuggle three kilos of cocaine into the UK.

The drugs had an estimated street value of £387,000.00.

Border Force officers stopped the Lithuanian-registered lorry at the freight controls in the Eastern Docks, Dover on September 22. After questioning the driver, Ceslovas Gailius, a detector dog was used to search the vehicle.

The dog, Arnie, gave a positive indication to a black rucksack that had been placed between pallets in the lorry's load of car parts. Officers opened the rucksack and found three cling filmed-wrapped packages of white powder which reacted positively to a field test for cocaine.

Gailius was arrested and an investigation carried out by the National Crime Agency.

He pleaded guilty at a hearing at Canterbury Crown Court on January 5 and was sentenced to imprisonment that day.

## Ukip councillor fired for alleged racism

A THANET councillor representing Ukip, thrown out of the party last month for making undisclosed racist comments, has been outed as calling black people 'negroes' by The Times newspaper.

Rozanne Duncan, who is a councillor for Cliftonville East, was kicked out of the party in December for making the comments.

But it is only now that the full extent of these comments has been revealed.

According to The Times, Ms Duncan said she had a 'problem' with black people.

She described them as 'negroes' and said that there was 'something about their faces'.

It is believed Ms Duncan, 68, made the comments during filming for a BBC television documentary about Ukip.

In a statement issued by the party at the time, a spokesman said: ''Ukip is expelling Rozanne Duncan under rule 15 of its constitution for bringing the party into disrepute.

''She has 28 days to appeal.''

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# agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

## Ferry operator gets set for ruling appeal

CROSS Channel ferry operator, MyFerryLink, will be taking stock after a Competition Appeal Tribunal ruled that an earlier decision banning it from running services from the Port of Dover should be upheld.

The tribunal stated that the Competition and Markets Authority had jurisdiction to take the decision on June 27 2014.

The loss is the latest in an ongoing series of legal battles by MyFerryLink to allow it to continue its services from Dover.

The ferry provider has said that the tribunal accepted a number of the points which it made and it intends to renew its appeal.

In the meantime MyFerryLink says that it will continue to run its services between Dover and Calais as normal.

## Get registered to vote for general election in May

THE public are being urged to make sure they register to vote ahead of this year's general election.

The biggest change to the electoral registration system in nearly 100 years took place last year.

It changed the way people register to vote.

It replaced the old Victorian system – where the 'head of household' registered everyone living in their property – to a new one, in which each individual is responsible for registering themselves.

To find out more about registration and voting, visit www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

## ...also

### School place deadline

PARENTS only have until January 15 to apply for a primary school place for their child if they are to start school in September.

To apply online, visit the Kent County Council website at www.kent.gov.uk.

### Library consultation

A PUBLIC consultation on KCC's plans to modernise its libraries, registration and archives service will launch on January 12.

Residents will be able to register their views online at www.kent.gov.uk and a questionnaire will be available in libraries.

### Council oppose flights

TUNBRIDGE Wells Borough Council will start campaigning for a reduction in night flights over the area. The council made the decision after a public meeting, during which councillors decided to oppose expansion at Gatwick Airport.

### City Link job losses

PARCEL firm City Link will be closing its depots in Aylesford and Ashford between Monday and Thursday next week.

This will result in 11 job losses across the county.


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# Mining museum given £215,000

**Jamie Weir**
Jamie.Weir@archant.co.uk

TONBRIDGE-based Hadlow College has good reason to be happy after its Betteshanger Sustainable Park project was given a grant of £215,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The project, which will see the former colliery at Betteshanger redeveloped into an environmental complex, received the funding for its plan to build a museum dedicated to Kent's mining heritage. The museum will form a vital part of the 121-hectare site, and will celebrate and preserve the county's unique coal mining heritage.

Jim Davies, a member of the Kent Mining Heritage steering group, said: "On behalf of the mining heritage team on the steering group, we would like to add our thanks to Hadlow and the HLF for the opportunity to move forward with our museum, to enable us to maintain our strong and enduring bonds with our mining communities.

"The museum will provide a lasting legacy for the generations that follow."

Betteshanger is the site of the last mine which was closed in Kent during the late 80s. When the final pit closed, it caused havoc for employment prospects in the area.

Many of the areas formerly associated with mining are still bearing the brunt of that abandonment and have struggled to adapt to the closure of the mining industry in the area, with fewer jobs and a bleaker economic outlook.

The new development aims to change all of that, with a total of £40 million invested into the site in the project's first phase. It is hoped this will create around 1,000 jobs.

The new complex will combine sustainable business and commerce, education, sustainable energy and tourism.

The HLF uses National Lottery money to fund projects which help people explore, enjoy and protect heritage.

Mark Lumsdon-Taylor is the finance director at Hadlow College, and an executive director for the Betteshanger project. He said that the funding would be helpful.

He said: "I am delighted with this wonderful outcome following a long process to get to this point.

"This is such a crucial project."

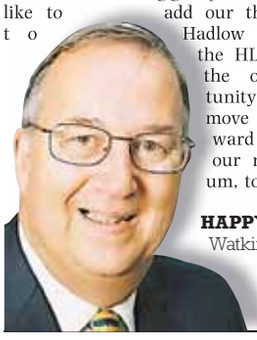
Paul Watkins, leader of Dover District Council, said that the funding would push an important part of the county's cultural heritage to the fore while also helping attract tourists to east Kent.

He said: "We're delighted that plans to celebrate Kent's mining heritage have taken another big step forward.

"This is a key component of the plans for the Betteshanger Sustainable Park and will be a popular attraction for local people and tourists alike.

"The aim is to provide a unique visitor attraction that will combine mining heritage alongside new, sustainable energy technology."

The first part of the development is expected to open next year.



**HAPPY:** Cllr Watkins

**CRUCIAL PROJECT:** How the Betteshanger Sustainable Park could look

**DELIGHTED:** Mark Lumsdon-Taylor

# A&E wait is second worst in England

**Jamie Weir**
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MEDWAY NHS Foundation Trust, which runs the Medway Maritime Hospital, has recorded the second worst accident and emergency department waiting time in England, according to statistics released by NHS England this week.

The national target is for 95 per cent of patients to be seen in less than four hours. Medway only managed to see 79 per cent of its A&E patients before the four-hour period was up.

That was only slightly better than Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which was the worst in England, with 75.6 per cent of patients attended to within the time limit.

Despite Medway's particularly poor performance, the picture looks bleak for many of the county's NHS trusts, with none managing to achieve the national target in the period between October 5 and December 28.

The figures – which are published quarterly – examine the performance of A&E departments across the country, and are broken down into NHS trusts, rather than individual hospitals.

Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust outperformed the rest of Kent, managing to achieve a total of 94.7 per cent of patients seen to within four hours. But even with a better performance than any other trust in the county, it was unable to achieve the national target.

However, it did manage to outperform the national average of 92.6 per cent.

The statistics show the worst performance nationally since the target was introduced for hospitals in 2004.

The figures from Medway hospital show that a total of 319 people were left waiting to be admitted for longer than the four-hour period. By comparison, the national average number of people left waiting for more than the target time was 268.

Dr Sarah Pinto-Duschinsky, director of operations and delivery for NHS England, blamed the failure to meet targets on an increase in demand.

She said: "Today's figures show that in the three months to the end of December more than nine out of 10 A&E patients in England continued to be seen and treated in less than four hours – the best measured performance of any major western country.

"In the immediate run-up to Christmas the NHS treated 446,500 A&E attendees, up 38,000 on the same week last year. And there were 112,600 emergency admissions – the highest number in a single week since we started publishing performance figures in 2010.

"We faced similar demand over Christmas itself. In the week ending December 28 A&E attendances were up more than 31,000 on the same period last year, meaning we successfully treated more patients in less than four hours than ever before."

The GMB Union - the union for NHS and ambulance staff - says that the figures show the NHS is being overwhelmed due to a lack of money from the government.

Rehana Azam, the GMB NHS national officer, said: "Patients and staff are paying the price for the government's failure to manage and invest sufficiently in the NHS.

"Staff morale is low and many staff are required to come in on their rest days to help deliver care in a service that is massively overstretched."

A Department of Health spokesperson said: "We know the NHS is busier than ever before, which is why we've given the NHS a record £700m this winter for more doctors, nurses and beds. The NHS has ensured there are plans in every area to manage the extra demand."

**MEDWAY:** One in five patients waited more than four hours to be treated

## THE BEST AND WORST IN KENT

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Medway NHS Foundation Trust 79.0 per cent

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust 91.3 per cent

Maidstone And Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust 90.8 per cent

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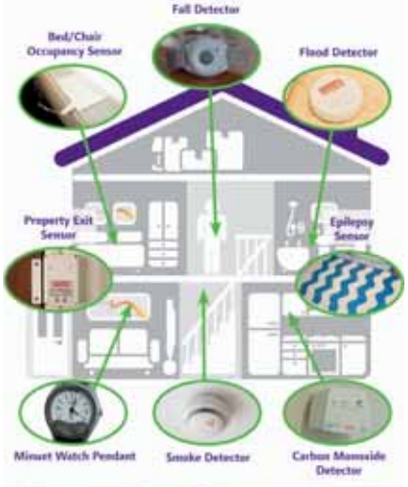


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Kent, CT20 2QY

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www.shepway.gov.uk

# Shepway Lifeline

## Take care of Kent

# What 2015 has in store for our rail commuters

Travellers are bracing themselves for the start of a new timetable from Southeastern to add to the disruption services have already suffered due to the ongoing Thameslink works programme, writes **Chris Murphy**...

**COMMUTERS:** Facing new timetable

AS IF all the work on the London Bridge line wasn't enough for Kent commuters to contend with, a new Southeastern timetable has also been introduced.

In an effort to at least reduce the pain of reaching some parts of London from the county, Southeastern believes it has come up with the best compromise.

It says: "From Sunday, January 11, onwards, there is a new Southeastern timetable begins. No Charing Cross services will stop at London Bridge.

"Charing Cross services to and from New Cross, St Johns, Deptford, Greenwich, Maze Hill and Westcombe Park will be permanently diverted to and from Cannon Street.

"And Charing Cross services to Plumstead, Woolwich Dockyard, Belvedere and Erith will also be diverted to run to/from Cannon Street."

This is all down to the ongoing Thameslink programme that promises to transform north-south travel through London.

With more people using the trains, the huge rise in demand from passengers means it is vital that improved connections giving better travel options to more destinations are introduced.

Engineers are restricted in what they can do and can't simple build new infrastructure and then close down the old lines once the new ones are up and running.

The changes need to be done to lines and buildings that are literally next to each other.

With more than 50 million people taking journeys through London Bridge station each year, it was clear the old place was creaking.

By 2018, there will be improved connections, more reliable journeys, better stations and facilities, as well as new trains, says Southeastern.

Network Rail is also untangling the track outside the station which will reduce delays from train crossing pathways and waiting outside the station for platforms to clear.

The Thameslink Programme has already delivered longer, 12-car trains between Brighton and Bedford, platform lengthening at several stations, track work and upgraded stations including West Hampstead, Farringdon and Blackfriars.

London Bridge station is now being redeveloped. It's hoped Kent will be getting the same treatment.

The Thameslink Programme is a partnership between Department for Transport, Network Rail, Southeastern, Southern, Thameslink and Siemens.

David Statham, the managing director of Southeasterm, told KoS: "We've been working closely with Network Rail and the rest of the industry for the past two years to prepare for this next phase of work and communicate the changes to passengers.

"This major programme of work will mean significant timetable changes and we're encouraging all our passengers to check before they travel to see how they might be affected.

"Services are expected to be busier than usual while people adjust to the new arrangements, and so we do recommend customers allow a bit of extra time for their journey.

"We will have nearly 200 extra employees at our busiest stations to help customers with journey advice, and we'll be running as many services as possible into Cannon Street , including extending the opening hours of the station, to allow people who need to travel to London Bridge the opportunity to get there."

So what of the future for Kent commuters? Following on from the new January timetable, it's all change again in August 2016 with another new timetable starting.

This time, it's better news as Charing Cross services will resume calling at London Bridge, but then Cannon Street services will not call at London Bridge.

From 2018 onwards, the Cannon Street services will resume calling at London Bridge and Greenwich services will not go to Charing Cross.

Passengers will also see the completion of track, signalling and major bridge work around London Bridge station.

The expanded Thameslink service will begin to serve London Bridge too, offering customers more travel choices.

For more information on the changes, visit here http://www.southeasternrailway.co.uk/thameslink/january2015/

## CHANGES TO THE MAINLINE AND HIGH SPEED SERVICES

■ **Extension of High Speed from Faversham to Ramsgate that will serve Whitstable, Herne Bay and Birchington-on-Sea with an hourly all day High Speed service.**

■ Extension of High Speed from Dover to Ramsgate that will serve Martin Mill, Walmer, Deal and Sandwich with an hourly all day High Speed service.

■ **The introduction of a High Speed 'Rounder' service. The High Speed service will run from St Pancras to Faversham, Ramsgate, Deal, Dover, Ashford and to St Pancras providing a through service from North to East Kent and vice versa.**

■ Reduction of splitting and joining services at Faversham and Ashford to make it simpler for passengers, improve performance & reduce journey times.

■ **Extension of an hourly service from the Maidstone East line to Canterbury West.**

■ Introduction of 'skip-stop' pattern (where not all services halt at all stations) on Maidstone East line in order to offer a more even spread of trains between Ashford and Maidstone and a faster journey time to London from stations between Maidstone and Ashford.

■ **Capacity enhancements on peak time services from Ashford to St Pancras and elimination of splitting and joining of trains at Ashford in peak times providing additional capacity and journey time improvements.**

■ Introduction of High Speed services to Snodland.

■ **Introduction of a mainline call at Denmark Hill that will provide an hourly all day, including Sundays, service from North Kent, Medway & Bromley South to Denmark Hill for connections into London overground and Thameslink services.**

■ Some mainline trains from Cannon Street to Ramsgate via Medway will start or terminate at Blackfriars.

■ **Ashford to Dover will be reduced to two trains an hour off-peak.**

## THAMESLINK AND THE FUTURE

**THE Thameslink programme makes huge promises that it will all be worth it in the end.**

**It will mean more stations outside London can connect to the Thameslink route, giving better travel options to more destinations.**

**There will also be some new trains. Not all will be replaced, but those on the expanded Thameslink route will be new by the end of 2018, with the first new trains entering service in 2016.**

**And then there is the improvement to London Bridge, a logjam for years.**

**Around 54 million passengers go through London Bridge station each year, but come 2018 there will be improved facilities and two-thirds more space for passengers.**

# Bravery and sacrifice from Second World War recalled

This year is the 70th anniversary of the end of fighting in the Second World War and a host of events are planned across the county to commemorate and remember the conflict. **Chris Murphy** finds out more...

**DUNKIRK:** This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Dunkirk evacuation by the famous Little Ships

LAST year saw the centenary of the start of First World War – now we are 70 years on from the end of the Second World War and Kent will be marking the occasion too.

Events are still being organised but KoS is taking the opportunity now to look at what has been organised so far.

The county's tourism promoter, Visit Kent is at the centre of letting people know what's happening to ensure this terrible conflict and its momentous conclusion are not forgotten by young or old alike:

■ The terror of war throws up many unexpected horrors, and one of those that marks out the Second World War is, of course, the Nazi persecution of the Jews and others on a scale not seen in centuries.

Holocaust Memorial Day is January 27, and an annual Commemoration Service takes place in the Garden of Remembrance, Sandgate Road, Folkestone, in memory of those who died in the Holocaust and subsequent genocides.

■ Among the events will be the Airfix D-Day Experience at the Hornby Visitor Centre in February. The centre says its Operation Neptune exhibition features a huge interactive diorama and displays setting out some of the key stories from the Day of Days.

■ Although major cities like London and Coventry saw plenty of bombing, Kent bore the brunt of failed drops from the Luftwaffe. Their pilots reportedly often dropped their left-over munitions at random over the county.

To mark some of those incidents, the Ramsgate Blitz Walks take place at the start of February and again in future months.

The organisers say: "These are guided walks or just over two hours around the heaviest bombed seaside town in the UK. Those taking part can relive the dark days of the Second World War, hear stories of ordinary people on the front line and visit the places connected with those stories."

■ Ramsgate is also the home to service and parade to mark Operation Dynamo. This year is the 75th anniversary of the evacuation of Dunkirk by the Little Ships.

Over several days in May, there will be a church service in a marquee on the harbour, followed by a parade to commemorate the evacuation of Dunkirk beach.

There is also a VIP inspection of more than 50 Dunkirk Little Ships in the harbour, and perhaps a number of Spitfires and a couple of Hurricanes will be doing a fly-past.

The Little Ships that can make it, and of course weather permitting, will be actually sailing to Dunkirk.

They will be piped out by a local piper and, Royal Navy permitting, will be accompanied by a gun salute from the sea. Their return later will also be welcomed by a gun salute off land, this time if the army allows it.

At the weekend, Ramsgate harbour will be transformed into May 1940, with tea dances and music. Big Band Concerts are also promised.

■ Dreamland in Margate hopes to reconstruct a May 1940 reception centre and the Winter Gardens Margate will be having an ENSA Production with the Theatre Royal Margate hosting a 1940s production called Spitfire Solo.

■ Dover Museum will be having an exhibition about the Dunkirk evacuation from 16 February, running throughout the anniversary.

■ Of course, this year will also see the launch of a major attraction that looks back at the Battle of Britain. Thanks to a government handout at the end of 2014, The Wing is set to open at Capel-le-Ferne.

The stunning new visitor and education centre will see plenty of visitors.

Despite the government money, trust chairman Richard Hunting is encouraging supporters to keep giving in order to make sure it stays open and maintained for future generations.

He said: "It costs around £70,000 a year to run and we also need to make sure we have sufficient funds to maintain The Wing, which will house our exciting new Scramble Experience.

"The Wing is on schedule to open in March during the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, and will be a fitting tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of the men who took part in the summer and early autumn of 1940."

The Scramble Experience will take up half of the new Spitfire wing-shaped building at the clifftop home of the National Memorial to the Few, on the white cliffs just outside Dover, and will use high-tech, interactive exhibits to tell the story of the Battle of Britain.

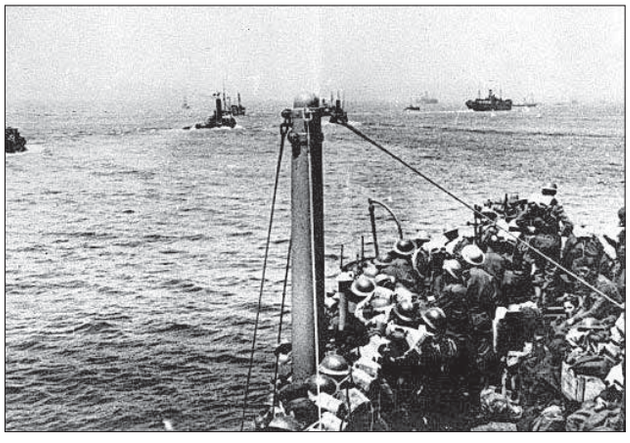
The other half of The Wing, which will also house a retail area and a first floor café with superb views across The Channel to France, will be used as an education centre offering first-class dedicated facilities for school groups.

The site also features the Memorial itself, the Christopher Foxley-Norris Memorial Wall, which lists the names of all those who took part in the battle, and full-scale replicas of a Spitfire and a Hurricane.

■ Later in the year, in September, there is the Wildfire III Memorial Parade and Service in Queenborough on the Isle of Sheppey. Details are still being finalised, but the event will definitely be happening.

Other organisations are still busy sorting out their events, so it is guaranteed there will be something to see and do in many of our towns this year to mark the ending of the Second World War.

For more information on all these events and to check back for others still being planned, visit http://www.visitkent.co.uk/micro-sites/frontline-kent/what-s-on



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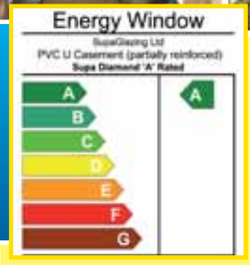


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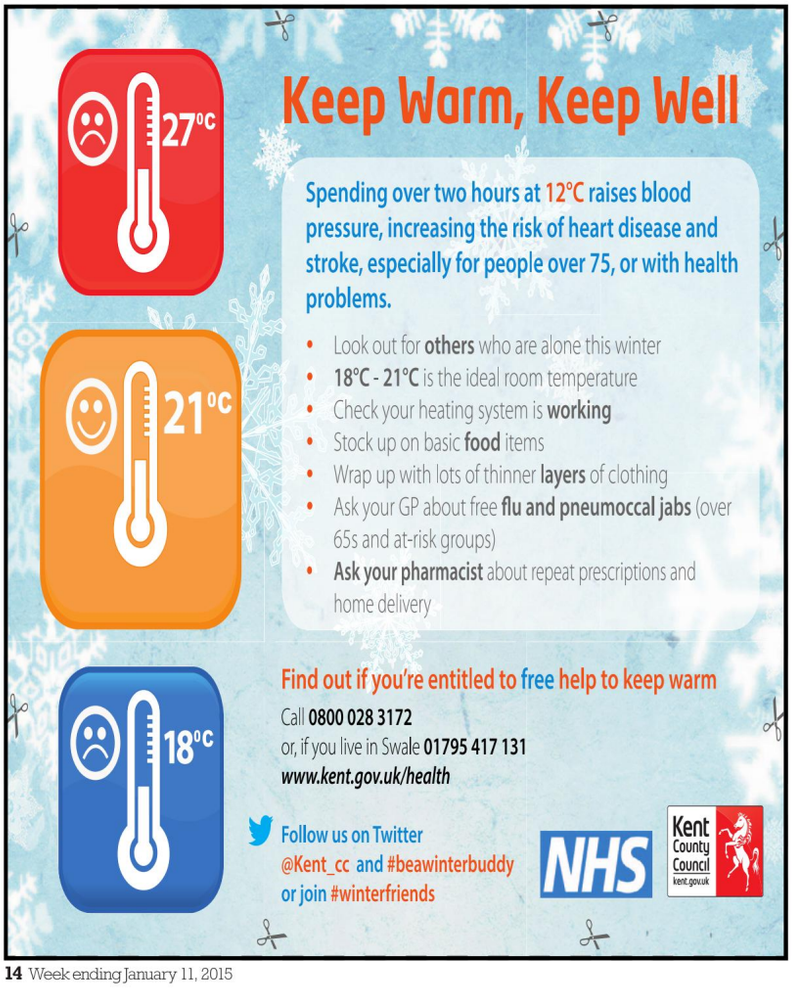



# Stopping and thinking about how much we actually drink

When someone utters the words 'alcohol abuse', some might immediately picture stereotypical images of a man on a bench swigging from a can, or a teenager binge drinking during the weekend. But this is not always the case, as **Molly Kersey** discovers at the launch of a campaign to get us all to cut down and give our health a boost ...

MANY of the people who are abusing alcohol are actually hard-working professionals and fully-functioning adults.

And they may not even realise that they are drinking that little bit too much, and too often.

Kent County Council is encouraging people to think carefully about what they drink on a regular basis, and sign up to Dry January – a national campaign spearheaded by Alcohol Concern – to cut down and give their health a boost.

The challenge is to stay alcohol free for 31 days, with the hope that this will have beneficial effects for the rest of the year.

The problem of alcohol abuse has been widespread throughout the county, with Kent hospitals treating approximately 20,000 cases of alcohol-related illness and injury a year, costing the NHS in the area £108m.

Some 272,000 people in the county are drinking at dangerous levels, increasing their risk of many illnesses and conditions that could lead to them dying earlier than they should.

Research also shows that the number of people dying in Kent from liver disease has risen by 43 per cent since 2002.

"It's mostly preventable," said KCC's interim director of public health, Andrew Scott-Clark.

"In a sense that bucks the trend, given that premature deaths from heart disease and cancers are generally decreasing."

Experts are encouraging people to really consider how much alcohol they are consuming, challenging misconceptions that a few too many pints in the pub or glasses of wine after work are 'harmless'.

There are simple steps to take for those who are concerned.

"Cut down on alcohol as much as you possibly can, and think about what you drink," said Mr Scott-Clark.

"We are recommending people stick to the recommended daily amounts, three to four

**EARLY INTERVENTION:** The QEQM scheme helps people who are drinking too much

KEA

units per day for men and two to three units per day for women, and two alcohol-free days a week."

However, it is not that easy for everyone, and KCC works closely with the health service, voluntary organisations and other bodies to provide specialist support and treatment for those who need further help to cut back.

The QEQM hospital in Margate is piloting a scheme to help patients who are at risk from their alcohol use. Patients are screened – asked a set of questions about their alcohol consumption – so any issues can be identified, and given information and advice about the help available to them.

It started in February last year, and there have already been a large number of referrals to social enterprise Turning Point as a result.

There is a direct referral system, with nurses employed by them regularly in the hospital.

It is a way to help the people who need specific attention and extra time to diagnose their problems with alcohol.

**ADVICE:** Nurse Malcolm Shaw

QEQM alcohol misuse nurse Malcolm Shaw said that before the pilot, there could be as few as seven to nine referrals from hospitals in the whole of Kent in a year.

"In line with recent public health objectives we are aiming to screen as many patients as possible who come into the hospital with alcohol and drug use," he said.

"The statistics show that for about one in eight people it is very effective.

"We are developing this pilot and we have to pray that we get the funding for the future."

If funding is granted and the pilot is successful, the scheme will be rolled out across the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford and the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, with dedicated teams there dealing with alcohol and substance abuse issues.

Mr Shaw added: "People are at risk of slow and insidious damage from alcohol.

"We have a real culture around the use of alcohol. What we have is a sector of society that drinks to higher than recommended levels and a certain percentage of them in their 40s, 50s and 60s are coming to hospital with alcohol-related problems."

Mr Shaw said that the screening with enable professionals to spot early indicators of a potential problem, as people could be abusing alcohol for a long time before their health starts to suffer.

"The chap that goes to the pub and has three or four pints after work, or the female executive who comes home and has half a bottle of wine at night to wind down – they can potentially do this for quite some time but are building up the potential for serious health-related issues later on."

Rita Jennings, Turning Point nurse manager, said: "I think people come in with a problem that is symptomatic of their alcohol use, rather than the alcohol use itself. Without screening you are not going to pick that up.

"You can work with them and show them how alcohol is impacting on their life. It doesn't work if you coerce them."

Turning Point's hospital liaison nurse, Dinesh Dhoonooah, agrees.

"I saw a man in hospital and he wasn't interested, but now he wants the help," he said.

"We give them information and let them know we are there for them when they are ready."

Ms Jennings agrees that alcohol use is firmly embedded within the culture we live in.

She said: "It's acceptable, it's available everywhere as part of our culture, and it's very difficult to move away from that.

"But if people can recognise that their dependency is increasing in any way, they can come and get some support to get it back under control.

"Treatment isn't all about talking about your alcohol use – it's normalising your life again, it's about the fun you used to have before you were drinking.

"It's focusing on the whole person and moving them forward into the area they want."

Turn to page 16

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## CASE STUDY: VICKY GROOM, ADMINISTRATOR

**VICKY was referred to Turning Point after seeking help for alcohol misuse, and has been free from alcohol for two years. She became a peer mentor, then was employed as an administrator last year.**

"I decided to seek help because it was causing problems within my family and my health was starting to be affected.

"Initially I went to my GP, who referred me.

"I think for me, the most valuable thing that Turning Point provides is the motivational interventions.

"It's very easy to get demotivated, and for it to be successful you need to keep motivated at all times. It's something that you can't let go of, you have to be aware of it all the time.

"The psychosocial interventions are invaluable. Unfortunately some people think they can come in, get pills and that will be the end of it, but it's not like that and actually detox is a very small part of it.

"That's just to deal with the physical symptoms of withdrawing. The hard work comes from you really realising that you have to start the change.

"You have to come to the realisation yourself, but speaking to organisations like Turning Point, even if you don't fully engage straight away, can help. Just speaking to them, finding out what's available and seeing how you go from there.

"Don't be scared to speak to someone about it. It's a lot more common than people realise. You think you're the only one, but once you realise that you're not on your own, it helps.

"I strongly believe that peer mentoring is valuable as well, because you're hearing about things from someone who's been there.

"You're not listening to someone just tell you 'you should do this, you should do that'; you can listen to someone say 'this is what I did and these things might work for you'. You can listen to other people's experiences.

"I would love to one day be a recovery worker."

## EXPERT VIEW: LEE BUSHER, SOUTH EAST COAST AMBULANCE (SECAMB) MANAGER

"WE handle more than 850,000 calls a year. Calls involving alcohol as the main concern only represent about five per cent of these, but the actual total is likely to be far higher if other categories potentially involving alcohol, such as road accidents or falls and assaults, were also included.

"The festive and New Year period has been an extremely difficult time for us. It's a massive drain on our resources."

Mr Busher said that there could be violence and aggression which came with the job.

"Unfortunately that's part of Friday and Saturday nights, ambulance crews regularly being verbally and physically abused.

"I think the alcohol is a very important factor in people's behaviour. The more they drink, the less inhibited they become. It does cause quite a few problems.

"It means if we are dealing with someone who's had too much to drink, that ambulance is tied up so we can't get to the people who really need help, such as breathing difficulties, just around the corner.

"People often think it's just teenagers but it's not. It's a whole age range.

"We see 12-year-olds who have had alcohol up to 70-year-olds who have had too much to drink, so it's a very broad spectrum.

"We're dedicated to helping all patients and we treat people who are alcohol dependent every day, and are able to help direct these patients to the specialist help they require.

"We urge people to be aware of the impact drinking to excess has on the ambulance service.

"We want people to enjoy themselves but also to know their limits, look out for others they are with and be sensible."

## EXPERT VIEW: LEE ROSE, KENT FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE'S HEAD OF COMMUNITY SAFETY

"WE have had quite a busy Christmas, as we do every year. The good news is we have had no fatalities this year. The alcohol-related issues for us really are around drink driving."

Mr Rose said that fires in the home were also a problem during the festive period.

"We attend many kitchen and house fires that have started through people not paying attention or because they have left cooking unattended.

"There's no doubt that alcohol plays a part in those distractions - fire starts when people's attention stops. Alcohol can make it harder for people to wake up and realise what might be happening in their home, making it difficult to escape.

"Alcohol can alter judgment and may cause people to make bad decisions. We would always urge people to consider fire safety in their homes and watch how much they drink.

"We don't want to stop people having a good time, but make sure you do have a working smoke alarm."

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# Testing time for relationships

For many Christmas is a time of joy, wonder, togetherness and love but for some it is a time of stress and strain when emotions run high and any fault lines in a relationship are tested to braking point. It's no wonder then that the first week of January sees a big increase in calls to family lawyers and relationship counsellors. **Sarah Linney** reports...

THe festive season is officially over (sorry, everyone).

But for many couples, along with the decorations and cards and endless turkey leftovers, another thing will be coming to an end: their relationship.

The first week of January has become a time each year when family lawyers and relationship counsellors see a big increase in calls from couples whose new year resolution isn't a detox or a diet, but a divorce.

But can such an upsetting situation be made less upsetting – and even resolved in ways those involved might not have thought possible?

Kirstie Law, a partner in the family law team at Kent solicitors Thomson Snell and Passmore, which has offices in Tunbridge Wells and Dartford, says the post-Christmas surge in splits is not hard to explain.

"It's partly that in November and December people put their to-do lists on hold while they are getting ready for Christmas – even people who have been separated for a year or two," she said.

"And it's partly that people have difficult Christmases. They feel let down by arguments and plans not living up to expectations, and they think everyone else has a perfect marriage – no one else seems to be the couple that's arguing on the way to the party."

Jo Brown, from Relate Medway and North Kent, agrees. "When families and couples spend substantial amounts of time together, that's when they decide they want out of their relationship – the second busiest time for us is after the school summer holidays," she said.

"Problems can be covered up in the normal routine. People are busy and they can get away without really addressing issues, but when they are spending time together, it may be harder to ignore them.

"And if these issues have been buried for ages, when the arguments come they can be quite explosive.

"A lot of problems start after babies have been born. People don't realise how much time children are going to take up and how their lives are going to change."

However, Miss Law says that these problems aren't always a sign that the marriage is doomed – and urges people to think very, very carefully before deciding to split.

"Do take a rain check and think, is it really over - or it is it about the high expectations of Christmas, comparing one's life to everyone else's and feeling dissatisfied?" she said.

"Is your marriage really worse, or are you imagining that everyone else's is better?

"As human beings we are very good at getting on a conveyor belt and not stopping to think about it. But you don't want to look back in two years' time and think, we should have tried counselling.

**DIFFICULT DECISION:** The advice is take a 'rain check and think, is it really over - is it about high expectations...'

"If I see a couple and it is clear that they have issues, I would suggest referring them to a counsellor to see if the relationship could be saved first."

Couples or individuals who get in touch with Relate are offered an initial consultation, when they talk through the issues with a counsellor.

If they decide to go for regular sessions, they will see the same counsellor each week or each fortnight, at the same time.

"It does work a lot of the time. The counsellors are all well-trained and specialised in their areas," Mrs Brown said.

"Even if only one person wants to attend, often the other might join later.

"Ultimately it's about learning how to listen to each other and recognise what each other is thinking, feeling and saying.

"A lot of the time people don't listen to each other – and jobs can be very demanding, and their lives get very full up.

"It's also about learning how to compromise and remember what you love about each other. A lot of it is of-

## THINK OF THE CHILDREN

FOR unmarried couples, the situation is simpler as neither party has the right to make a financial claim from the other.

However, if the couple have children, both have parental responsibility as long as they are named on the birth certificate – which means a responsibility to take care of the children financially as well as a right to time with the children.

This will probably involve one parent paying maintenance for the children to the other - an amount which you can calculate online yourself, or through the Child Maintenance Service.

Even if the father is not named on the birth certificate, he and the mother can agree that he is also responsible for the children - or he can apply to the court for a parental responsibility order.

ten just normal irritations – money worries can be very powerful. Those Disney-perfect happy-ever-afters probably would get into difficulties if they had to face what most couples face."

She says that even if the couple do decide to split, going through counselling first will often still turn out to be beneficial.

"Hopefully there might be less animosity and they might be able to do it in a more friendly way," Mrs Brown said.

"When children are involved, it's all about how you separate.

"With all the emotional upset that separation inevitably causes to family and children, there are some cases where the family is better off, but it should be a last resort."

For a couple who have definitely decided to split, a bitter battle in the courts is far from the only option.

Couples can opt for mediation – where they work together with a mediator to come to an agreement – or collaboration, where they each have their own lawyer but all four parties still sit down together to work out arrangements.

Both of these are less expensive, stressful and time-consuming than a legal battle decided by a judge – in fact, a couple can end up working so much out between them that they barely need a lawyer at all.

Mediation also offers an opportunity for the couple's children to be involved – if they choose to use a mediator who is qualified to work with children (which Miss Law recommends), that person can talk to the children and find out how they are feeling.

"The children can often say what they would like to happen or what they feel the problems are. Often children are very perceptive," Miss Law explained.

"They can feed back to the parents about the children's feelings and wishes – they will agree with the child what they are going to say. The child can also tell them things they don't want to tell their parents, which the mediator won't relay back, unless the child is at risk of harm."

The most important thing, she says, is to aim to make the whole process as painless as possible.

"If you are going to end a relationship, you want to do it in a way that isn't going to have a big fallout for everyone else," Miss Law said.

"Don't go into it thinking you want to take the other person to the cleaner's. Think about the fact that you want to be able to co-parent with that person, maybe keep them as a friend and keep in touch with their extended family, and you don't want your mutual friends to feel awkward about it all.

"If you can work things out between you, you are more likely to come out with a reasonable relationship and a better settlement than if you went to court and spent tens of thousands of pounds."

But she says that, conversely, if someone does want to split from their partner but feels they can't face doing so, it's important to think that decision through too.

"I would say go and see a counsellor and talk through with them why you don't feel able to do it," Miss Law said.

"It could be for religious reasons or because of family pressure, or out of fear of what will happen to the children, the business or to you if you are on your own.

"But I know one couple who have continued running a business for 20 years together since they separated. You get people who keep jointly-owned holiday homes. It depends on the emotional involvement.

"Sometimes people say they are staying together for the sake of their children - and some people wish their parents hadn't stayed together for their sake. You've got to get to the bottom of what's holding you back."


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# Manager's pride in his battling Whites

**MANAGER:** Chris Kinnear

Dover Athletic's FA Cup dream ended at the hands of Premiership side Crystal Palace last Sunday at The Crabble. The Conference side were beaten 0-4 but won praise around the county for their brave display against a team nearly 90 places above them in the league. **Jamie Weir** looks back at the Whites' unforgettable day...

**BIG DAY FOR DOVER:** Turnstiles and anxious crowds

DOVER Athletic were 'caught in a perfect storm' during their defeat at the hands of Premiership side Crystal Palace, according to their manager Chris Kinnear.

The Whites had managed to make it through to the third round of the FA Cup after solid performances against two teams which, on paper, were stronger than them.

And hopes were high that with Crystal Palace in a state of flux following their manager's departure and close to the relegation zone, that Dover might be able to continue their run of giant-slaying and claim the Premiership team's scalp.

But it wasn't to be, and when the two teams clashed, at Dover's Crabble Road stadium, the brave Whites were simply outclassed by Palace – who sit 86 places above Dover in the league ladder – eventually losing 4-0.

Whites manager Kinnear said that while he was disappointed, he was still proud of the team despite the result.

He said: "I am disappointed that we did not play as well as we could do, but realistic that we have just faced a massive club.

"They played a full Premiership side and four weeks ago a team similar to that beat Liverpool.

"The lads may have their heads down, but I have said to them that they have achieved a lot and I'm sure a lot of their friends would have liked to have been playing here today."

The game didn't start well for the Whites, as Palace managed to snatch a couple of early chances at goal.

Dover, meanwhile, looked nervy in their defence, and were unable to take the ball close to the Palace goal line.

When Palace drew first blood just nine minutes into the game, Dover looked despondent, becoming even more cautious in their approach. The Whites had conceded a corner which eventually ended up at the feet of Palace centre back Scott Dann; the defender smashed the right-footed shot from the six-yard box to put Crystal Palace in the lead.

Dover's fate was sealed around 20 minutes later when, in the 33rd minute, Dann made it a brace with an on-target header from close range.

After that goal, the writing was on the wall for the Whites, with little hope of them getting back into the game.

To the team's credit, they didn't give up and crumble, but battled on, trying to minimise their losses.

And they managed to hold off the Premiership team's onslaught for the

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**CRABBLE'S HEROES:** Despite going behind to the Eagles early in the game, the Whites commitment to the cause was obvious and they kept on trying and earned praise from their manager

remainder of the first half, finally making their way to the dressing room nursing a 2-0 deficit.

Whites defender Richard Orlu admitted that Crystal Palace had managed to take control of the game with the early goal, never really allowing Dover to get back into it.

He said: "It was excellent to play in front of so many people against a team like that.

"It is just a shame about the first two goals we conceded as they were set pieces - we wanted to stay in the game a little bit longer."

After half-time, the performance was lacklustre from both teams, with Dover failing to really get into attack mode and never troubling Palace's keeper, Wayne Hennessey, who seemed at times more like a spectator than an active player.

In fact, the Whites only managed one shot at goal in the 90 minutes, compared to Palace's 28 shots.

The third goal for the Eagles came in the 67th minute, with the fourth and final goal close to the end of the match, in the 86th minute, underlining Palace's dominance throughout the game.

Despite Dover's bravery throughout, the fourth goal illustrated why Palace sit four leagues above Dover Athletic, with a short-range shot punching through the Whites' defences.

Kinnear said it best, stating that although the team had lost, he was still happy with what his players had achieved this season.

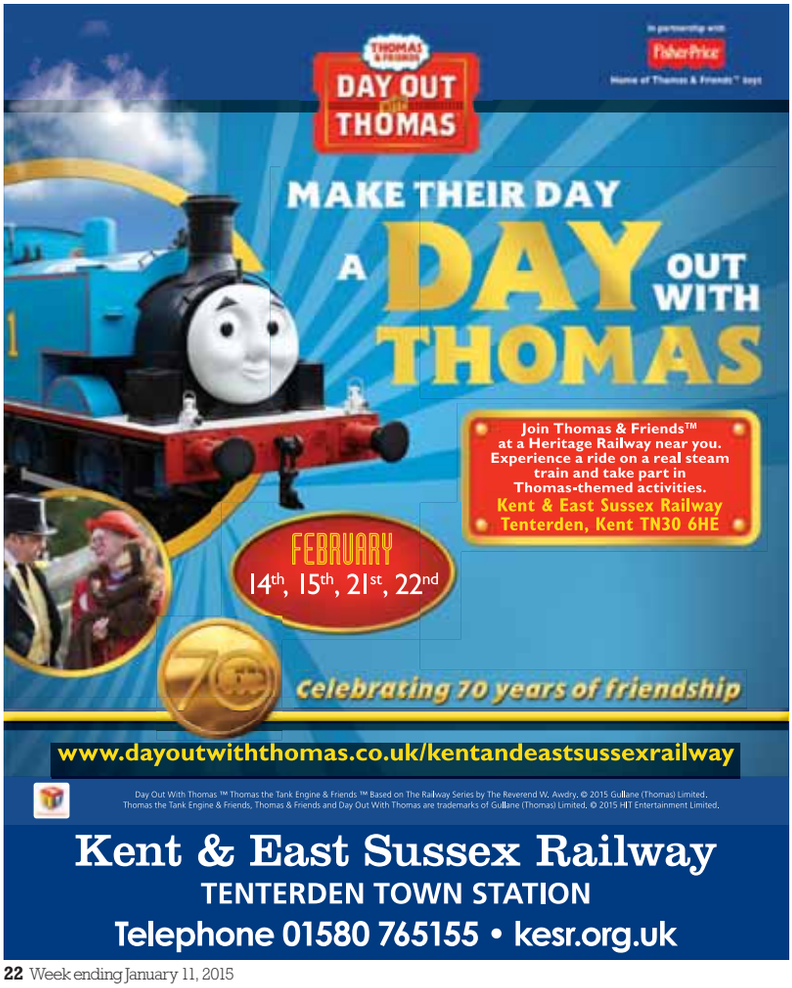
He said: "We were caught in a perfect storm with their new manager coming in and they did not take liberties with us. We started really nervous and they went for us.

"From being on a great unbeaten winning streak, it is definitely disappointing, but the players all had a really busy festive period, with a bundle of games, and we have done incredibly well.

"I can't be disappointed with the players and what they have achieved recently. People were saying we were going to get relegated this season, but we have reached the third round of the FA Cup, and a game which everyone else in Kent would have loved to have been playing.

"There are disappointments, but if there is only one in 17 games, then that is not bad going."

■ Line-up, bookings (1) and substitutions (6):

**HIGHS AND LOWS OF THE CUP:** Dover's dream is over... until next year! Pictures by ADY KERRY

Dover Athletic: Andrew Rafferty 30, Sean Raggett 5 (Christian Nanetti 20 57mins), Richard Orlu 6, Liam Bellamy 8 (Tom Wynter 3 69mins), Tom Murphy 10 (Ricky Modeste 7 82mins), Barry Cogan 11, Stefan Payne 14, Tyrone Sterling 16, Nick Deverdics 10, Tom Bonner 26 , Connor Essam 29 (Booked, 45mins, foul). Subs: Sean Francis 15, Jake Reid 19, Lee Hook 22, Matt Lock 12.

Crystal Palace: Wayne Hennessey 13, Joel Ward 2 , Scott Dann 6, Wilfried Zaha 11, Stuart O'Keefe 12, Dwight Gayle 16 (Jerome Thomas 14 73mins), Glenn Murray 17 (Kevin Doyle 9 46mins), Barry Bannan 25, Damien Delaney 27, Joe Ledley 28 (Adrian Mariappa 3 76mins), Martin Kelly 34. Subs: Brede Hangeland 4, Adlene Guedioura 8, Chris Kettings 26, Jason Puncheon 42.

Referee: Andre Marriner

Attendance: 5,645.

## WHAT ARE DOVER GOING TO DO WITH THEIR WINNINGS?

THE game is likely to have been the highest-earning ever played by Dover Athletic. Television rights alone netted the Whites £144,000 from the Football Association.

Dover also took a chunk of the gate receipts, which, with a packed Crabble stadium, would have been significant. Tickets sold out quickly and, with merchandise available, the Whites could quite easily have made £250,000 from the match – a sum which would have been likely to dwarf their previous paydays.

The team's chairman, Jim Parmenter, says the money should help the club rise up the ranks – but only if spent on the right things.

He said: "It was a great occasion with a full stadium and it was nice to see the supporters cheering us on. Hopefully some will be back for the league games. It was great for us to have a TV game.

"The money will be invested in making us more competitive over the next couple of years. It is up to me and the board to spend the money wisely."

While it's likely to be the board and chairman calling the shots on where the cash goes, manager Chris Kinnear knows what he'd like to see the money spent on.

He told KoS: "We never really needed the money, and I think that's why we've done well. We're playing for the glory rather than the cash as we haven't been in any financial difficulties.

"But, saying that, the money is great. I'd like to see it being spent on strengthening the squad, with money pumped into training and maybe better facilities too.

"New players could also be on a wish list, but really it's just every little aspect of the club.

"Everything we will do with the money will help to build the squad up, and that's what we want really, to keep playing the big games and succeeding as a club."

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**THE WRITE WAY:** Peter James has sold over 15 million novels

# Look right into the mind of a bestselling crime novelist

## Critically-acclaimed author Peter James to host post-show talk at Orchard Theatre

THE work of bestselling author Peter James will be making its way to Dartford this month (see next page).

The national tour of the stage-adaptation of his novel Dead Simple comes to The Orchard Theatre from January 14-17, and fans of the writer will be given the opportunity to attend an exclusive question and answer session with him.

This Q and A session will take place following the matinee performance on January 15.

Mr James has written 26 novels.

Dead Simple, often considered to be his most popular work, was the first book to feature the character of Detective Superintendant Roy Grace.

The Roy Grace series has sold over 15 million copies, and has been translated into 36 languages worldwide.

This series has spawned seven consecutive UK Sunday Times number ones, as well as number ones in Germany, France, Russia and Canada. He is also a New York Times best-seller.

Mr James has served two consecutive terms as chairman of the UK Crime Writers' Association, and is currently Overseas Vice-President of International Thriller Writers in the USA.

Dead Simple play tells the story of Michael Harrison. He thinks he has it all; great career, good friends and a beautiful fiancée.

But when his stag night prank goes horribly wrong, Michael finds himself alone, buried alive and staring death in the face.

As time runs out and the terror grows, Detective Superintendent Roy Grace tries to solve his mysterious disappearance, but begins to fear that Michael will never be found in time.

Olivier Award winner Ian Talbot directs.

The recognisable faces coming to Dartford include Tina Hobley who has graced TV screens for the last 12 years as ward sister Chrissie Williams in Holby City as well as roles in Coronation Street and Harbour Lights and was seen earlier this year in Celebrity Master Chef.

Joining her is award-winning TV actor Jamie Lomas who has starred for the last year in EastEnders as the murderous Jake Stone and before that as bad boy Warren Fox for five years in Hollyoaks.

Also on stage is Rik Makarem, best known for starring for four years in Emmerdale as well as Torchwood and who is a previous winner of the prestigious Laurence Olivier Bursary.

Michael McKell who starred for three years in Doctors as well as Emmerdale, MIT and on stage in Blood Brothers, Tonight's the Night and the Olivier winning Crazy for You also joins the cast at The Orchard.

And finally, Gray O'Brien, award-winning star of Coronation Street, Peak Practice and Casualty as well as Sleuth in the West End, will play the famous Detective Roy Grace.

Dead Simple promises to be a chilling, thriller that has all the classic suspense, twists and turns of a best-selling Peter James novel.

For more information or to book tickets, visit orchardtheatre.co.uk or call the ticket office on 01322 220000.

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# Women Seeking

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**SARAH** 29yr old pretty slim single mum of one, interesting, lively, good fun, enjoys nights in/out, music, seeking similar easy going, genuine, honest man/dad to get to know. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415841**

**ATTRACTIVE** female, seeking single male to enhance my happy life. Enjoys travel, good conversation, walking and music. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4564712**

**ANGIE** attractive nurse 39yrs, new to area/advertising, likes dog walking, being sociable, meals in/out, WLTM honest, fun male for possible ltr. looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415827**

**SOPHIA** young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel No: 0905 002 1883 Box No: 413399**

**LISA** attractive petite Filipino female, very lonely, wanting to find love, companionship and to be happy, looking for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415549**

**LUCY**, 32yrs, blonde lady seeks naughty boys of any age for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0905 002 1887 Box No: 413443**

**SUE** 65, 5ft 8ins, blonde hair, fashionable, smoker, GSOH, enjoys meals out, travel, animals, WLTM kind, shyish man for friendship, maybe more. Thanet area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415735**

**ADVENTUROUS** sexy lady, 38yrs, married but seeks no strings fun with discreet man, any age. I'm tall, slim and dominant. Aca. **Tel No: 0905 002 1937 Box No: 415301**

**BLONDE** female, 47, looking for fun, sensual, experienced, understanding, seeking similar. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415675**

**MELANIE**, 38, slim, blonde and bored. Call if you want no strings fun. **Text Only 4550198**

**LUCY**, broadminded 18yrs seeks discreet fun with men any age. Aca. **Tel No: 0905 002 1941 Box No: 365051**

**INTELLIGENT** funny guy without a huge ego required for damaged heart. Casey 39, size 10, curves in all the right paces, pretty, kind, loving, genuine, romantic and available. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415509**

**SEXY** brunette, mid 20's busty, adventurous broad minded seeks no strings fun. **Tel No: 0905 002 1949 Box No: 361739**

**BLACK** lady 43, sincere, down to earth, fun loving, likes theatre, cinema, meals out, walks, seeking white gent with GSOH, sincere and down to earth. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415477**

**SALLY**, 38yrs large cuddly lady seeks slim men for discreet meetings. **Text Only 4550193**

**JENNY** voluptuous blonde tanned well presented female, enjoys being and giving pampering, cooking, cosy nights, looking for some broadminded excitement. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415399**

**TRUDY** 36yrs, wltm broadminded men of any age/area for daytime meetings. **Text Only 4550194**

**JOYCE** 39, attractive GSOH, loves nights out, honest, loyal, fun to be with, looking for mature male for adult companionship, meals out and hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415561**

**NICOLETTE** 32 petite professional attractive black female looking for similar hardworking white male who like me loves life and is serious about finding a LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415545**

**FEMALE** seeking male for adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413809**

**JENNI**, 52 bored housewife wants no strings fun with younger chap. **Text Only 4550197**

**PAT** blonde blue eyed curvy, cuddly female, attractive, likes swimming, gardening, holidays, my job/home, looking for happiness with quiet content grounded male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415533**

**MANDY** 35, petite attractive slim female with very GSOH, likes to keep fit, meals in/out, WLTM genuine child friendly guy/dad for fun times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415513**

**JACKIE** very pretty leggy well-mannered/educated 28yr old female, loves nights in/out, sports, WLTM sincere male up to 35yrs for friendship, hopefully ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415377**

**DONNA** 36yrs un-modest but very attractive, nice eyes, good figure, GSOH, OHAC, great job, sick of never meeting Mr Right, looking for someone special. Genuine male please. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415187**

**ALISON** 27yr old very bored broadminded female with plenty of free time on her hands looking for some adult fun times. Call me, I won't disappoint. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415177**

**DEE** lonely divorced female, slim, bubbly, attractive redhead, loves cuddles, looking for a man who can restore my faith in love and make me laugh. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414961**

**JACKIE** extremely sensual lady but for your eyes only! likes horses, keeping fit, gardening looking for genuine love interest and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414721**

**TERI** separated single lady, blonde, blue eyes, slim, WLTM compatible male for genuine friendship, meals out, weekends away, nights out and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414361**

**DEBBIE** brown eyed attractive social female, romantic, good listener, loves children, looking for similar nice male/dad to get to know, hopefully leading to more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414383**

**EMMA** slim 5ft 8ins, single employed female with OHAC, enjoys many interests, gym, music, easy-going, genuine, supportive, seeking similar male for a chat, maybe a date. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414957**

**JEAN** slim blonde divorcee bubbly affectionate, romantic with lots of love to give, looking for man who knows how to look after a lady for meals in/out, friendship/ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414699**

**JANINE** 36, faithful, sincere, will never stray seeking similar male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414629**

**JANE** 48yr old young looking professional female, tall, green eyes, attractive, size 12-14, enjoys walking, keeping active, nights in/out, good wine/conversation, seeking soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414729**

**FEMALE** seeking male for adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413809**

**ELAINE** 30, fit, sexy, curvy black lady, very feminine, loves wining, dining, nights in, seeks solvent white 40's male who is passionate, loving and caring. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414711**

**DAWN** 34, petite auburn haired female, size 12, sensitive, loving, affectionate, WLTM similar homely male who will spend lots of quality times with me for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414499**

**KAREN** 35 petite dark hair/eyed affectionate, caring, lovely female with many interests looking for genuine tlc from loving soul mate, dark haired preferred. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414487**

**JULIE** good looking 40's female, medium build, size 12, loveable, considerate, OHAC, likes nights in/out, walking, seeking loving male without lots of baggage. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414387**

**BLUE** eyed slim pretty easy going hardworking lady seeking male to put the spark back into my life, must be honest, affectionate, have a GSOH and wont to work at a relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414217**

**HELEN** 19yr old bubbly female looking for male to take me out and show me a good time. No pressure just fun times, no time wasters. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414223**

**FREE** single 25yr old busty curvy black beauty, sensual, confident, interesting, looking for handsome man to call me back. Race/age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414219**

**MO** 36yr old slim blue eyed pretty blonde looking for fun times with non-judgemental, discreet, kind male. Age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414215**

**JANE** 29, loves riding and spending time horsing around, seeking non-serious kind of normal guy who enjoys going out having a good time. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414205**

**KAREN** young looking attractive vibrant slim blonde, enjoys to keep fit, beach walks, travel, meals in/out, good conversation with pleasant company, WLTM genuine sincere male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414203**

**FEMININE** sensual female, slim-medium build wanted by slim, kind male for daytime meets, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414809**

**OUTGOING** male, seeking attractive female, likes sports, music, cinema and nights out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414793**

**LATE** 60's male, fit, 5ft 10ins, GSOH, usual trappings, likes nice restaurants etc, slim, reliable, seeks nice lady for whatever comes. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414643**

**GARETH** handsome 40's pilot, strong tall build, seeks daytime discreet passion with lady 30-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414421**

**SINGLE** male, early 50's, seeking female for discreet meets, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414347**

**39YR** old guy, 6ft 2ins, slim-medium build, seeking female for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414259**

**LADY** companion 60-70 wanted for elderly gent, likes travel with property abroad. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414133**

**AMIABLE** intelligent male, 77, light smoker, seeks slim lady for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413127**

**MATURE** male, looking for discreet meetings with female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413039**

**FRANK** 54, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, smoker, seeking friendship with mature female, 40-60. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412893**

**67YR** old male, slim, 5ft 5ins, many interests, likes holidays, meals out, seeking slim female 55-65 with GSOH to share TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414023**

**BLUE** eyed male, fit, toned, likes socialising, travel, OHAC, seeks female, 40-56 for loving, caring relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413981**

**MALE** seeking Asian female, any age, outgoing, likes outdoors for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413965**

**KEEN** cyclist 58, non-competitive, seeks similar female for sea wall, countryside ride, walking etc for fun, laughs and whatever. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413337**

**RETIRED** engineer 67, likes meals out, nights in, holidays, seeking slim lady, 60-65, young at heart to wine/dine, friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413161**

**PAUL** own business, looking for daytime fun with lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411127**

**RETIRED** male, seeks attractive female for friendship and fun, any age/status/colour. East Kent, can travel. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413133**

**COMPANY** Director, mature, late 50's, seeking female, any age for mutually rewarding friendship, Kent/Surrey area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412819**

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**WRITER** tall, slim, dark hair, generous, seeking broadminded lady for fun times. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412749**

**BARRY** divorced, 6ft, well built, seeking fun time girl for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412717**

**SINGLE** young lady, slim-medium build, 24-38 sought by mature male in Canterbury. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697**

**MALE** 48, looking for fun loving female to enjoy outdoor activities, nights in and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392212**

**EX** headmaster, tall, dark, seeks adventurous lady, status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412263**

**BESIDE** the Pointe. Literate self-possessing, legginess, kindred spirit sought by white male for elevating the bar. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412223**

**MALE** 49, attractive, fit, spontaneous, good company, no ties, seeking likeminded lady for the road ahead, nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411309**

**45YR** old male, likes poetry, seeks companion for relationship. Herne Bay area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411993**

**CHIPS** on the pier, walks on the beach/countryside, VGSOH, 58yrs old, fit male, seeks female for laughs and love and whatever. NE Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411477**

**MALE** 5ft 11ins, good-looking, athletic build, looking for discreet fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411417**

**DEREK** seeking female, 50-60 for company, friendship and have fun together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411433**

**RAY** 63, 5ft 10ins, slim, semi-retired, seeking no strings discreet meets for adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411147**

**WORLD** war veteran seeking happy lady with nice conversation in the Kent area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411133**

**DAVE** 65, retired, N/S, likes gardening, music, meals out, holidays, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410971**

**DAVE** 62, 5ft 10ins, slim, semi-retired builder, seeks no strings discreet daytime meets for adult fun. Surrey. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410899**

**MALE** likes outdoor life, smoker, seeking local female for cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410755**

**BRIAN** 70, Maidstone, seeking female, 60 plus, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, days out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410611**

**DEREK** 5ft 11ins, slim-medium build, loving, caring, seeking black lady for possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410511**

# Men Seeking

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**74YR** old retired, widowed male, fit, young looking, seeking younger female for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415855**

**JAMES**, hard working single dad, late 30's seeks single mum for family days out. **Text Only 4550196**

**LONELY** 75yr old male, OHAC, tall, medium build, genuine, loving, kind, seeking lovely kind lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415791**

**JOHN**, 42yrs professional genuine gent seeks caring lady to treat as a princess. **Text Only 4550195**

**MIKE** Canterbury mature male, seeks single mum/lady, 28-42, slim-medium build for loving, caring relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415275**

**BUILDER** 45, tall, good looking, kind, considerate, easy going seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415315**

**52YR** old male, seeks female for adult fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415261**

**GRAHAM** tall, semi-retired, Piscean, likes sailing, seeks female, any nationality. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415463**

**SIMON** 49, actor, likes music, films, reading, puzzles, loop holes, ambiguity, seeks pretty leggy female , 35 plus for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415447**

**MIKE** Canterbury mature male, seeks single mum/lady, 28-42, slim-medium build for loving, caring relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415275**

**GRAHAM** tall, semi-retired, Piscean, likes sailing, seeks female, any nationality. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415463**

**SIMON** 49, actor, likes music, films, reading, puzzles, loop holes, ambiguity, seeks pretty leggy female , 35 plus for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415447**

**SIMON** 49, actor, likes music, films, reading, writing, puzzles, loopholes, ambiguity, WLTM very pretty, leggy female, 6ft plus, 40 plus for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415155**

**PAUL** early 60's, fit, smart, GSOH, WLTM female for some casual times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415113**

**ANDY** young 66, widower, honest, caring, affectionate, GSOH, looking for LTR with lady 60's, slim and likeminded. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415093**

**JOHN** own business, blue eyes, dark hair, loving, caring, tactile, 5ft 10ins, own home, likes to wine and dine, come and meet me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414987**

**LADY** companion wanted for older gent, good position in life, likes travel, property abroad etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414821**

**MALE** 49, 5ft 10ins, likes cinema, reading, walks, seeks female in the Thanet area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412235**

**MALE** seeking friendship of mature woman, smoker. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412703**


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# Darkness and plenty of plot twists on stage

**By Maria Chiorando**
maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk

THE audience can expect a dark script, and lots of unpredictable twists and turns in Dead Simple, according to leading man Jamie Lomas.

The star – best known for his turns in EastEnders and Hollyoaks took some time away from the rehearsal room to talk to KoS about the upcoming production, which opens on January 14 at Dartford's Orchard Theatre.

Dead Simple, which is adapated from the bestselling Peter James's novel, has a huge fanbase.

Mr Lomas says: "The script is brilliant, and very very dark, which is what attracted me to it.

"The producers got in touch with my agent, and said they'd like me to read for the part.

"I read the script, and knew that I had to be involved in it. It all clicked during the audition process, and I'm so happy to be onboard.

"It's a fantastic cast and anamazing director (Ian Talbot).

"With the success of Peter James's writing, there is some pressure to do the material justice, but I'm confident that it's all coming together well."

Better known for his small screen roles, stage is a new experience for Mr Lomas.

But the actor, who trained at the Manchester School of Acting, as well as in Canada, has always wanted to do it.

He says: "Switching from screen to stage is quite a big transition - the performance has to go from being as small as possible to being as big as possible, while still being real.

"It's a tough skill, but after coming out of a soap, I wanted to tackle a different challenge.

"With the national tour, I am throwing myself into the deep end a bit, but that's the life of an actor - and it's never boring.

"The rehearsal process is going really well, and the whole cast has gelled, which is good news, as we'll be touring together.

"They are all brilliant actors, and there is a lot of mutual respect."

Writer Peter James has also said how pleased he is with the casting of the play.

He said: "As a writer, all my characters begin in my mind. I flesh them out for the printed page.

"But nothing can compare to the joy of seeing them turn into real flesh and blood.

"All of them are actors I really admire and respect, and to see them come together, for the first time, at the read-through of the play was a truly magical experience for me."

With little time to go until opening night, the cast and crew are now putting together the finishing touches for the upcoming production according to Mr Lomas.

He says: "I hope people come down and support the production and support the venue.

"There's a great team behind it, so hopefully audiences will enjoy the play.

"The main thing I would say to anyone coming to see it is this: Expect the unexpected."

Dead Simple opens at The Orchard Theatre in Dartford on Jauary 14 and runs until the 17.

For more information or to book tickets, visit orchardtheatre.co.uk or call the ticket office on 01322 220000.

**BEHIND THE SCENES:** The team at a read through **Inset:** Jamie Lomas


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## Roll up for an ale of a time

THANET will be hosting its 10th annual beer festival on April 3 and 4 at Margate's Winter Gardens.

Call 01843 292795 or visit www.margatewintergardens.co.uk for information.

## A super children's show

CBEEBIES superhero Tree Fu Tom is coming to the Winter Gardens in Margate. This new show is full of music and participation.

The performance, which takes place on April 19, is suitable for all ages.

Call the box office 01843 292795 or visit www.margatewintergardens.co.uk.

## Putting on the 20s glitz

A MUSIC-filled adaptation of F Scott Fitzgerald's novel The Beautiful and Damned is coming to Charlton Park on February 7 at 8pm.

Call 01227 831355 or visit www.charlton-park.org.

## Row, row, row your boat

PUPPET show Arthur's Dream Boat comes to the Gulbenkian in Canteurbury on January 24 at 2pm. The show is suitable for all ages.

Tickets are £7.50 (Baby on lap (0-18months) tickets £1). For more information and tickets, visit www.thegulbenkian.co.uk, or call 01227 769075.

# A touch of culinary magic in this delicious children's puppet show

**By Maria Chiorando**

maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk

**A TOUCH OF MAGIC:** The puppets come to life on stage

THEATRE of Widdershins brings new show – The Magic Porridge Pot and Other Tasty Tales – to the Gulbenkian Theatre in Canterbury later this month.

This show has three courses, the starter is the magic pot which won't stop producing porridge.

The main course is soup made from the most delicious stone in the world.

For pudding there is the very famous walking talking Gingerbread Man.

Accompanying these three popular stories is puppetry, pop-up sets and original music.

The Magic Porridge Pot and Other Tasty Tales follows Theatre of Widdershins' other productions The King's Got Donkey Ears, Arabian Nights, The Elves and the Shoemaker and Rapunzel and the Tower of Doom.

The company was formed in 1993 by Andy Lawrence and Penny Earey.

Mr Lawrence had been a props/costume designer and maker, mainly for the BBC, making such memorable costumes as a codpiece for 'Blackadder', a Tutankhamun headdress for Lenny Henry, and a two-legged camel for Little & Large.

Ms Earey had just finished running a nature reserve in London.

Theatre of Widdershins aims to creating high quality puppet theatre for children and their families.

The combination of table top puppetry, pop up set, storytelling and original music used in their productions has become their trademark.

The Magic Porridge Pot and Other Tasty Tales will be at Gulbenkian January 17.

The show starts at 2pm.

Children will have a chance to meet the puppets after the production has finished.

The production lasts for around 50 minutes.

It is suitable for ages 3+ and tickets are £7.50

Baby on lap (0-18months) tickets cost £1.

For more information and tickets please visit www.thegulbenkian.co.uk.

You can also call the box office on 01227 769075.


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# Think about making fish the catch of the day

## Many people avoid eating fish, but with the wide variety available in the UK, it's worth giving it a try...

SMELLY, expensive, bony... fish doesn't always have the best reputation, but it's packed full of nutrients and there are many flavours to try.

Whether it was a whiffy, overcooked piece of haddock as a child that's put you off, or a plate plagued with bones, many people simply won't touch fish, no matter how many delicious-looking seafood dishes grace our TV screens on MasterChef.

As an island nation, we have a wide array of flavours swimming locally on our doorstep. It's high in protein, low in fat and needn't be too expensive or tricky to cook. And with so many different varieties, it's impossible to get bored.

So it's a wonder why, compared with our Mediterranean friends, we're a bit unenthusiastic about fish in Britain. I have several friends who won't touch it unless it's covered in breadcrumbs, chopped into familiar rectangle shapes and deep-fried.

A recent survey by Fish of the Day, the consumer face of the industry body Seafish, found most people in the UK (56% of adults) are falling short of the recommended two portions of fish per week.

Despite that, lots of people say looking after their health is a priority, with 39% planning on kicking off a better eating regime in the New Year.

If eating for health is your goal, looking to the seas for inspiration is a great place to start.

Known as 'brain food', oily fish like sardines, mackerel and salmon are packed full of Omega 3, and all types of fish and seafood are nutrient rich.

**OILY:** Full of omega 3

As well as Omega 3, vitamin D is another key components and in winter we can't rely on sunlight to keep levels topped up so it's essential that our diets contain it too.

Vitamin D is crucial for healthy bones, muscles and the immune system, while it's also been linked with helping prevent diseases like heart disease, bowel and breast cancer.

According to nutritionist Juliette Kellow, making this a reality needn't be too hard.

"Find the fishmonger counter at your local supermarket, they're the best people to give advice on all the different types of fish, and how to cook it," she says. "If you've never really cooked fish before, start with something familiar like cod, haddock or plaice, making sure it's responsibly sourced."

Most fish comes in handy, single portions or can be filleted by a fishmonger, so it won't take much, if any, preparation, and it can be cooked in mere minutes.

"Get experimenting, have a play, and build your confidence," Kellow says.

"If the kids are a bit resistant, start with homemade fish fingers or fishcakes.

"I used to make my little one a bit of mackerel mashed into some white fish, so he's growing up used to the taste of fish. Now he'll try anything."

## A sticky adaptation

FOLLOWING a West End season, Scamp Theatre's adaptation of hit children's book Stick Man is coming to The Theatre Royal in Margate in April.

This show is most suitable for children aged 3+ with their friends & families.

Stick Man takes place on April 18 at 2pm.

Tickets cost £10, concessions £8 and a family of 4 is £30. Call 01843 292795 or visit www.theatreroyalmargate.com.

## Sex, Baroque and roll

ROCKERS The Tiger Lilies will go on a national tour this year - and will be stopping off in Canterbury for a gig at the Gulbenkian Theatre on March 23.

The Grammy-nominated band, who count Simpson's creator Matt Groening amongst their fans are well-known for the Baroque performances and stage presence.

Call the box office on 01227 769075 or go to www.thegulbenkian.co.uk.

## Right side of the tracks

THE City of Canterbury Model Railway Society presents its 26th model railway exhibition at St Anselm's School, Old Dover Road, Canterbury, CT1 3EN, on January 17 and 18, from 10 until 5 on Saturday and 10 until 4.30 on Sunday.

Tickets cost £5 for adults, £4 for seniors and £3 for children (under fives are free). Family tickets (2+2) are £13.

Visit www.ccmrs.co.uk for information.

## Just clowning around

CIRQUE Berserk will be coming to the Assembly Rooms in Tunbridge Wells on February 7 and 8, with two shows a day.

The group's performers combine contemporary ''cirque''-style skills with stunt action.

Tickets cost £28 or £24, with concessions at £25 and £21.

For more information, visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.

# That Italian zest for better living

**TRAVEL REVIEW: Sorrento**

By Sarah Marshall

USING the same care and attention a jeweller might employ to handle precious stones, 68-year-old farmer Peppino Nunziata examines the plump, waxy lemons hanging from wooden pergolas in his 10,000 square metre garden.

"Lemons are very delicate, so they need a lot of looking after," he tells me, after deciding this particular bunch are not yet ready to be picked.

Every day, from 6.30am, Peppino works in his garden, preparing for a marathon seven harvests, which produce an impressive 2,500kg of lemons per year.

The only days he doesn't work are when it rains, he proudly tells me. And judging by the blinding sunshine seeping through gaps in the pergolas, that doesn't happen very often in this part of southern Italy.

Sadly, though, these fragrant, golden gems are no longer the high value commodity they once were; at one time Sorrento lemons were a lucrative export, but today the price is much lower.

In order to keep their business going and preserve an important part of the region's history, Peppino and his family have been forced to diversify, opening their property up to tourists as an agriturismo - a working farm where guests are literally granted a taste of local life, with many home-grown products served at the delicious dinner table.

The Italian government set up the concept in the 1980s, to give farmers a secondary source of income, thus maintaining the existence of farms and stopping a mass exodus of people from the countryside.

Set in the hills above Sorrento, with views of the island Capri and a coastline dotted with umbrella pines, it's hard to imagine that life here is ever hard graft.

Owned by the Nunziata family for four generations, the garden was first planted in the 17th century. Ida, Peppino's wife, tells me that lemon production in this region was started by the Jesuits in the 16th century, although the fruit was popular as far back as Roman times.

Now, most of the lemons the family produce are sold to a limoncello factory in Capri, one of the first places to bottle the syrupy, sweet digestif 20 years ago.

Sat on the terrace of the 15th century stone farmhouse, I'm given instruction on how to properly savour a shot of the drink, which I've always (apparently mistakenly) served straight from the freezer.

"Good limoncello should be cold but not freezing," Ida explains.

Naples, the gateway to Italy's enchanting southern coastlines, the city has - quite unfairly - been tarnished with a reputation for being dirty, rundown and dangerous. But for me, the former Spanish-ruled kingdom is the beating heart of Italy.

Giambelli coffee machines grind into action as baristas serve viscous, explosive strength espressos to loud, boisterous Neapolitans - no doubt providing rocket fuel for their wild gesticulations.

I walk along Spaccanapoli, the street which famously splits Naples in two. Some of the tufa-brick buildings are so close, residents can even reach out and touch their neighbours.

To my amusement, one souvenir stall I pass sells toilet rolls emblazoned with pictures of Silvio Berlusconi - proof, if ever needed, that the shamed former PM's career is heading down the toilet.

The street is also famous for stocking Christmas decorations year-round, with artisans making miniatures for the popular Italian presepe (nativity sets). Alongside Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I'm surprised to find models of that other revered deity, Maradona, who once played for Napoli.

As I sit down for another pizza, an eccentric performer turns up on a customised Tim Burton-esque scooter to entertain diners. He's the epitome of Naples' often offbeat, humorous charm.

I remember Ida's advice and order my shot of limoncello chilled but not frozen.

Despite my self-consciousness, sunburned shoulders and fragmented Italian, I'm confident I might just have passed for being a local.

**WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS:** The Italians make limoncello

## TRAVEL FACTS

G ADVENTURES (0844 272 2040; www.gadventures.co.uk) offer their seven-day Living Local Sorrento group tour exploring Pompeii, Capri, the Amalfi coast, Sorrento and Naples, from £999pp.

Price includes most meals, accommodation, transport and local guides (flights extra).

## Film Reviews by Damon Smith

**INTO THE WOODS**
**(PG, 125 mins) Musical/Comedy/Drama/Romance**

TRADITIONALLY in fairy tales, the bedraggled heroine wins her dashing prince, evil stepmothers get their comeuppance and abducted children escape the clutches of a witch by pushing the treacherous hag into her oven.

Into The Woods keeps turning the pages on these archetypal characters, imagining what might happen as they come to terms with their actions and - in most cases - suffer the repercussions.

Everything has a price, especially your heart's desire, so be careful what you wish for.

**Rating 7/10**

**FOXCATCHER**
**(15, 134 mins) Drama/Romance**

FOXCATCHER (see picture) is a dark and unsettling character study, in which the American dream turns rancid and a mentally unstable man with money becomes a wrecking ball in the lives of unsuspecting bystanders.

The leading man, Steve Carell is impressive but arguably the more compelling performances come from Channing Tatum and Mark Ruffalo as the siblings corrupted by a millionaire's insidious influence.

The homoerotic undertow of Du Pont's fascination with Mark is subtly addressed in a script that doesn't quite make sense of the complex emotions churning beneath the surface.

Too much is left unsaid and with a running time of 134 minutes, director Bennett Miller leaves us with a lot of unanswered questions.

**Rating 7/10**

**TAKEN 3**
**(12A, 109 mins) Action/Thriller/Romance**

HISTORY repeats with predictably calamitous consequences in Olivier Megaton's high-octane thriller Taken 3.

In previous films, former Special Forces operative Bryan Mills (Liam Neeson) single-handedly brought down an Albanian human trafficking ring and its underworld offshoots.

He left devastation and an impressive double-digit body count in his wake.

Surely, the east European criminal fraternity would have learnt that Mills and his family are off-limits. Alas, the Russians haven't received that memo because they foolishly try their luck against the hulking avenger in this frenetically edited instalment.

Taken 4 A Ride is surely just a matter of time.

**Rating 5/10**

**By Hannah Stephenson**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

**BLUE TITS:** Making a comeback

# Helping birds to survive winter

AS the RSPB, birdwatchers and gardeners nationwide gear up for the charity's annual Big Garden Birdwatch, the organisation is warning that birds that have benefited from a mild autumn will begin to struggle as the weather changes.

Findings from the 2014 event, in which almost half a million people recorded the birds they saw over the two days, revealed some interesting changes among our most popular garden birds.

Blue tits emerged in their highest position since Big Garden Birdwatch began and were the second most frequently seen species. The previous occupiers of the second spot, blackbirds, dropped to number four.

Goldfinches climbed another place since the previous year and reached number seven, while the robin dropped back to number 10. There was also a new entrant to the top 20 - the great spotted woodpecker, for the first time ever, at number 20.

As well as asking the public to record their findings - with the help of identification pictures available on the RSPB website www.rspb.org.uk - the organisation is also asking people to do their bit to protect our birds through the winter by topping up their bird feeders and providing fresh water and shelter for wildlife in their gardens during the frosty weather.

The nature charity says there are three things that birds will need this winter: food, unfrozen water and shelter.

In chilly weather, birds will appreciate a variety of food, but fatty food will be especially helpful. For example, fat balls, or homemade bird cakes made with lard and packed with seeds, fruit or dried mealworms are great treats to put out in your garden.

Kitchen scraps will work well, and a recipe for successfully feeding birds over winter might include chopped fat from unsalted meat, cheese, dried fruit and pastry.

Unfrozen water for drinking and bathing may be hard for birds to find when there's been a frost, but with a simple trick you can help to keep a patch of water ice-free.

Float a small ball, such as a ping-pong ball, on the surface of the water. Even the lightest breeze will keep it moving and stop an area of the water freezing.

Finally, provide shelter by planting dense hedges such as privet or hawthorn, or letting ivy or holly grow. These all provide great cover for birds to roost in.

Nestboxes can also be good roosting sites, and roofs are a popular spot for birds trying to keep warm. If birds are getting into a hole in your roof and you need to get the hole fixed, consider putting up a nestbox to replace the gap.

RSPB wildlife advisor Richard James says: "People can make a real difference to garden birds and improve their chances of surviving the winter.

"Birds don't need much and by providing a supply of food, a patch of unfrozen water and somewhere to shelter from the elements, you will be rewarded with great views of wildlife in your back garden."

# feedback

your say...

Send us your views.
**Write to:** Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford, TN23 1PP
**Email:** editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
**Twitter:** @kosmedia

Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

## Putting the record straight

IN response to Mr Peter Medwell of Broadstairs and his totally misinformed letter of last week in relation to Cllr Clive Hart, the former Thanet District Council Leader.

Firstly, Mr Medwell very cleverly chose not to mention in his letter, that during the public meeting he referred to, Roger Gale MP had wholeheartedly thanked Clive for his support with the Manston Task Force and furthermore, that Clive in his own speech, also confirmed he stood 'shoulder to shoulder' with our two local Thanet MPs to support Manston and its retention as an airport.

However, what has really incensed me is that as with virtually every other scheduled council meeting or public event for more than a decade, my husband, Cllr Clive Hart, had arranged our own private domestic appointments to fit around his extremely busy councillor role that day.

He most certainly did not leave the meeting at the Winter Gardens 'early' as Mr Medwell suggests, indeed, the meeting was scheduled to finish considerably earlier and was extended by an hour, the vast majority of which we stayed for. Consequently my husband and I left much later than we had originally planned and for the record, some considerable time after both MPs had actually left.

I remember the afternoon very clearly because I became extremely concerned and distressed that we were getting very late to pick up our grandson, as previously arranged with my daughter.

Clive's undoubted commitment to Thanet is one thing but our joint commitment to our family and in particular the safety and wellbeing of our young grandchildren is also a major priority.

I therefore sincerely hope Mr Medwell will contact my husband to apologise for his totally misconstrued and now publicly made allegations.

**Cllr Sandra Hart,**
Margate

## NSPCC in need of volunteers

I WOULD like to take this opportunity to thank all of your readers who have supported the work of the NSPCC during the last year. Without the backing of local people the NSPCC would not be able to help abused children rebuild their lives, or be there for parents who desperately need advice and support.

As we move into 2015 I would like to appeal to your readers to make a very special kind of New Year's resolution for the NSPCC. 'Just One Day' is a call for people to come forward and volunteer some time to support our work – even if people can only spare one day, it will be a massive help.

There are many different ways that people can volunteer their time including helping out with admin at one of our offices; becoming an NSPCC ChildLine Schools Service volunteer; becoming a ChildLine helpline counsellor; getting involved in an event by setting up stalls or taking photographs, or cheering-on NSPCC participants in a sporting race or activity.

In Kent, we especially need fundraising volunteers. So whether you're interested in running a marathon, running a stall at a local fete, or just sparing a few hours to help at a collection, we would love to hear from you.

Abuse ruins childhood, but it can be prevented. That's why the NSPCC is here. That's what drives our work, and that's why – as long as there's abuse the NSPCC will fight for every childhood.

Please join us in the fight for every childhood by volunteering some time to support the NSPCC, whether you can spare a day a week or just one day. To find out more call 0203 188 3932 or log on to nspcc.org.uk/volunteer.

**Rupa-Dey Amin,**
NSPCC fundraising manager

**LETTER OF THE WEEK**

## Have a say on the Right to Light issue

WHY does KCC believe one person's safety is more important than another?

Please sign this on-line petition – we need 10,000 signatures to make KCC review its part street light policy and switch our lights back on for everyone's safety – go to the KCC website, search e-petitions, Right to Light e-petition. Or visit https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/mgepetitionlistdisplay.aspx?bcr=1

Many signatures have already been collected, please add your voice to this important issue.

KCC has switched off 70,000 of 120,000 street lights, plunging many residential areas into total darkness, it says to save £1 million a year, but it has cost £4.2 million to implement so will take over four years to payback, there are other issues to:

What about the safety of people walking home or going to work, many work irregular hours (hospital workers, emergency services, shift workers) and are out at all hours? We live in a 24-hour society, their safety is being risked by roads plunged into darkness from possible accidents from tripping on uneven pavements or obstacles, or from road accidents or crime.

KCC's decision is discriminatory – lights are off in some roads but not others – left on in shopping and town centres and universities, but not residential roads. KCC surely has a duty to provide services equally as we all pay rates. Residents without lighting are subsidising those who do and are also disadvantaged in health, safety and potential exposure to increased crime.

There is also an increased crime potential – it is a burglar's charter, encouraging criminals to target unlit areas to burgle and escape in total darkness, and increases threat of personal violence, muggings and rapes. Then there is increased stress from fear of attack with many elderly and disabled feeling unsafe in their own homes

Residents are being forced to install, or leave on, personal external lighting at considerable extra cost, which again is unfair and discriminatory.

Street lighting is a basic service and basic necessity – KCC's switching it off is totally unacceptable. KCC has decided to install LED lighting, but will not confirm when it is installed whether it will switch all the lights back on. Installation will take years and people's safety is at risk until then.

Also, if the council knew it was going to install LED lighting, why has it wasted £4.2 million of ratepayers' money to implement the 'part light' scheme, which it will never recover in energy cost savings during the period before switching to LED lights?

**J Cole,**
Broadstairs

## More people will realise the truth

I WRITE in reply to the letter from Rosie Sprigg of Canterbury, KoS Letters 28/12/14.

Without UKIP there would have been no discussion regarding the EU web we are entrapped within.

Without UKIP the disguised deceit we are entangled with would not have been made manifest.

Without UKIP, thousands of those who could 'see the big picture' would have had no representation.

Many thank UKIP that the public is slowly awakening from their brain washed stupor. Realising now the truth of our awful situation.

Far from praying that "they should be shown the door", no Rosie Sprigg of Canterbury, we need to pray earnestly that many more of our right-thinking people will realise the truth.

Incidentally, if UKIP could afford to subject parties to the same amount of electronic scrutiny that they are exposed to, I shudder to think of what they would turn up.

**June Moore,**
Tunbridge Wells

## Drone air threat poses danger

I AM writing in response to your piece about possible drone strikes over Dungeness.

If this is the case, why are we not hearing more about it? Terrorists are becoming increasingly sophisticated in their methods, and in this age of fear, we must do all we can to protect ourselves.

I am not aware of what security precautions the power station has in place: I would expect these to stay top-secret.

The drone flights mentioned in the article were not thought to have had any malicious intent: I hope that this is the case, otherwise the damage that unmanned flying objects could cause to our power source is truly unthinkable.

**Jim Crispin,**
Wadhurst

# images of kent

## Telephone tower at Etchinghill

by **John White, Etchinghill**

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# Let the Great Danes reveal the new you

Thinking New Year, new you? Well, for 2015, why not look into seeing what we can offer you?

Imagine sinking into a spa full of bath bubbles or raising your pulse in the gym at the Mercure Maidstone Great Danes Hotel.

After hitting the exercise machines in the Mercure Maidstone Great Danes Hotel gym, relax tired limbs in the heated indoor pool.

You don't need to move a muscle in our Feel Good Health Club – just laze in the sauna, steam room or spa bath.

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Our wide choice of cardio and resistance gym machines will help you keep on track with your fitness regime during your stay at Mercure Maidstone Great Danes Hotel.

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Detox after the wedding party with a sauna, or submerge yourself in the luxury of our bubbling spa bath.

We also offer membership at our club. Find out more by contacting us today on 0844 815 9045.

- Heated indoor pool
- Ladies and gents' separate saunas
- Spa bath
- Steam room
- Open 7 days a week

# Get a little help from the NHS to lose weight or to quit smoking

DID you know that the NHS in Kent provides services that can help you to find a healthy weight, quit smoking or get more active? If your New Year's resolution is to make a fresh start on your diet, finally give up the demon weed or to make the most of our beautiful Kent countryside by getting out and about more, then the NHS can help.

Anne Ford, head of Health Improvement Services for Kent Community Health NHS Trust, said: "We provide a range of services for people who want to improve their health and wellbeing, ranging from Health Walks to Change for Life Clubs for all the family.

"We also provide free NHS health checks for anyone aged 40-74 and our Expert Patients Programme is there to support anyone with a long-term health condition.

"If you want to quit smoking, you're up to ten times more likely to succeed with help from our Stop Smoking Team. We can provide NRT products on prescription as well as all the help you need to finally go smoke-free.

"For anyone who wants a bit of extra help to make lifestyle changes, our health trainers offer up to six free sessions of support and advice."

Find out more by visiting www.kenthealthandwellbeing.nhs.uk or call the team on 0300 123 1220 to find out more.

Kent Community Health NHS
NHS Trust

Live well, Live Longer!

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www.kenthealthandwellbeing.nhs.uk

KEA

# Unique cruises on the river Medway

THE Kentish Lady offers a unique experience of the River Medway, from one-hour trips at weekends and school holidays to three-hour cruises during the week - and is also the perfect setting for your private party.

The one-hour trips are perfect for the family and the adult-only three-hour cruises (which must be booked in advance) through Farleigh Lock include a picnic box or fish and chips. There is even a licensed bar on board if you fancy a tipple along the way.

Kentish Lady River Medway Boat Trips offer you a fantastic opportunity to shop in Maidstone town centre by boat! You can Park & Sail, and use the river to visit Kent Life, The Malta Inn and Whatman Park – Maidstone's millennium park.

If you have a little time to wait for the next cruise, you can visit the refreshment kiosk where you will find hot and cold drinks, cupcakes and cookies, sweets and ice cream – a well-deserved treat!

As the river weaves its way through Maidstone there is history around every corner. Take in the sights and splendour of this great county town from the comfort of your own seat aboard the Kentish Lady river boat.

The River Medway provides a beautiful backdrop and the Kentish Lady can cater for every occasion, from disco parties, wedding receptions, birthdays and anniversaries to social gatherings.

We provide a wide variety of buffet choices and can arrange entertainment and decorate the boat for your special occasion. There is even a licensed bar on board.

Gift vouchers: Why not treat someone special to an unusual and thoughtful gift? Three-hour cruise vouchers are available for purchase any time throughout the year. To purchase your voucher please call 01622 753740.

Of course, our licensed bar will be open if your fancy something a little stronger, that is until the bar staff have to do the locks!

Our well-stocked bar serves a wide variety of drinks, including wine, spirits, alcopops, draught and bottled beer, soft drinks, hot beverages and snacks. Our bar tariffs are similar to pub prices.

One-hour trips run from March to December; and three-hour trips run from April to October. Private hire is from April to September. See our website for full details: www.kentishlady.co.uk.

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# Mid Kent Flooring brings a personal touch to industry

FAMILY-run business Mid Kent Flooring opened its doors in April 2014, with a vast amount of experience between Kay and the team.

The business wanted to bring a personal touch to the flooring industry and hasn't looked back.

Their team will support you through every stage of your purchase, from budgeting and specifications to technical and colour choices to suit your individual needs. And the service won't stop there; they are on hand for any questions you may have throughout the whole process.

Kay and the team are backed by their desire for complete customer satisfaction and will deliver this though their experience and expertise. They will advise you on the perfect flooring for your home or business, and it will be fitted to the highest standard.

Remember floor-covering is an investment and we offer a selection of carpets, vinyl, woods, and laminates just to name a few. And at budgets to suit!

So if you're looking at doing up one or more rooms of your home or business Mid Kent Flooring are here to help!

Mid Kent Flooring supply the latest trends in flooring along with traditional patterns, but also offer bespoke colour and sizes tailored to your personal choice and needs.

The showroom is kitted out with all the floorings you could think of, and you should head down to meet the team for a friendly welcome and consultation.

### January Deals:

- On all new orders placed throughout January you will be entitled to free grippers and standard trims.
- Free uplift and disposal of existing carpets and vinyls.

# CSC has all your floor needs covered

WELCOME to Carpet Sale Centre for all your flooring needs.

Here at CSC we supply and install all types of flooring from all the leading manufacturers at the very best prices available, whether selecting from sample books or through our own stock of over 200 rolls.

We have been in Strood for 20 years working with retail and various commercial companies, which include estate agents and builders throughout Kent and the south east.

We provide a professional fitting service, contract and domestic, felt backs to Karndean, floor-prep screed, or ply right through to the finish.

Pictured is a luxury vinyl tile with a border cut freehand by fitter Kevin Weeks. Luxury vinyl tiles are becoming very popular, especially those from Karndean, Polyflor and TLC. We have an area just for these tiles in our warehouse for you to view and to help you decide where they will go.

CSC hold in stock more than 200 rolls of carpet in various qualities, from landlord to let specials to luxury 80 per cent wool twist pile and Wilton. Our fitters provide a complete professional service, from floor prep to the finish.

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# DJ Interiors - the secret is out!

ESTABLISHED in the year 2000, DJ Interiors has grown from a one-man fitting service to the complete, bespoke flooring company.

Catering for industries such as estate agents, care homes, building developments and pharmaceutical firms, the company has also worked on specialist projects for multi-million-pound yachts in Cannes and Monaco and is frequently requested back to work at the Cannes Film Festival.

Currently its work is being showcased on Grand Designs, reflecting the quality craftsmanship it offers to all its customers, whether domestic or commercial.

Whatever it is, DJ Interiors has you covered; from full refurbishments to hygienic wall cladding, from safety flooring to Axminsters, from landlord cord to luxury vinyl tiles, there really is something to suit everyone at an affordable price.

Its prices are all-inclusive too, so there are no nasty hidden charges at the end.

Over the past 14 years, all of DJ Interiors' work has been generated as a direct result of a referral. Its work has always done the selling and as such the company has operated as a

'best kept secret' passed on by happy customers. The firm's staff pride themselves on their levels of service and only sign off a job if they would be happy with it in their own homes.

So now the secret is out. Call the company at its showroom. The staff would love to talk to you about any grand designs you have and give you advice on how best to achieve your plans at a suitable budget. They look forward to hearing from you soon.

Call 01843 224362, or see the website at www.dannyjefferyinteriors.co.uk.

# Glebe Fencing Ltd can tick the boxes for your fencing, decking, gates and pergola needs

IT'S a New Year, a fresh start and a clean slate. Do you plan to achieve everything on your newly-written DIY to-do list?

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So, if you have added fencing, or decking, gates or pergolas to your list, maybe Glebe Fencing Ltd could help tick those boxes for you?

We offer a free site survey and fixed price quotations so there will be no unwanted surprises. All quotations are valid for three months from the date of survey, giving you time to consider or compare the quote without the worry of time constraints.

Glebe Fencing Ltd has grown from the traditions of a sole trader to a company that now services the whole of Kent and beyond.

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# Transforming lives ... all year and every year!

CHRYSALIS Care – transforming lives this New Year ... all year and every year.

Chrysalis Care has celebrated many New Years since it started providing foster placements for children and young people in 1997.

It's the time of year for reviewing and evaluating goals and plans, often with hopes for a better life - and Chrysalis Care have always strived for better lives for the children and young people they provide foster care for.

Being placed with the right family, at a time when they need it most, can make all the difference to the life experience of a child or young person and can actually help to transform their lives.

As an Ofsted-rated 'outstanding' organisation, we know that without our diverse foster carer team, we could not fulfil our ethos of transforming the lives of children.

Whatever time of year, children come into the care system for all sorts of reasons with needs that are individual to their experiences, so we need foster carers from a range of cultural, religious and ethnic backgrounds, mixed age groups and both single people and couples.

If you want to know more about becoming a fully-trained foster carer, receiving 24-hour support, and have a spare room and also room in your life to offer a child or young person, we are waiting to hear from you and to answer your queries.

If this New Year you want to make a difference, please call 0208 2982800, email info@chrysaliscare.org or visit chrysaliscare-fostering.org.

# Dedicated therapeutic family-based care for children and young in England by ISP

ISP is an independent fostering agency established in 1987 which practises dedicated therapeutic family-based care for children and young people in England.

We arrange fostering for children in ISP-approved foster families. The all-important relationship between foster families and young people is underpinned by a therapeutic, multi-disciplinary approach with expertise in social work, therapy, education and fostering.

In our therapeutic fostering, carers have appropriate experience, knowledge, understanding and empathy and use everyday caring experiences to help children thrive and develop. With extensive support, our carers work with young people who at times display extreme behaviours and emotions, helping them to live in stable, nurturing family placements.

Our foster carers come from various ethnic, social, racial and cultural backgrounds. Some are married, some are single and some are in long-term relationships.

Many foster carers have children of their own although this is not a requirement, however, carers must be able to demonstrate a good understanding of how the needs of children who are fostered may differ from those who live with their own families.

Life as an ISP foster carer is rarely predictable. Each young person arrives with their own distinctive personality, challenges and needs. Extensive support is provided, however carers do need deep reserves of determination, flexibility and resilience.

We are particularly interested in respite-only carers.

We have centres in Kent, London, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes and Sussex. We have also started recruiting in the Solent area.

If you would like to find out more please contact our Fostering Team on 0800 0857 989 or fostering.team@ispchildcare.org.uk or visit our website www.ispchildcare.org.uk.

# Make 2015 your year to shine – enrol on a course at Bromley College now

IF you want to make a difference to your life in 2015 then why not look at the many opportunities available to you at Bromley College this January?

With more than 20 new courses to choose from, now is the perfect time to develop your skills and improve your career prospects in 2015. We are launching some new courses aimed directly at 16 to 18-year-olds who are still deciding on their next course of study, or who have decided to change direction from the course they are on.

These are full-time courses and open to any young person who is still required to be in education, employment or training.

We have an exciting range of access courses for adults who want to gain the qualifications to go to university.

These courses are eligible for funding for over-24s through 24+ Advanced Learning Loans, which means there are no upfront fees and you only pay back when you are earning over £21,000 per year.

If you complete a relevant degree you won't have to pay the Access loan back at all.

You can also study up to degree level at Bromley College, where hundreds of students are already studying in our dedicated Higher Education and Professional Centre where the high standards of teaching and small class sizes make learning close to home an enviable experience.

Our new Hospitality, Food and Enterprise College is offering an entry-level programme for those wanting a career in catering. We are also running a series of short courses, for those who want to develop their home cooking skills.

Principal Sam Parrett says: "It's been an exciting year here at Bromley College of Further and Higher Education. From the launch of our 14-16 college this September, to the opening of our brand new £4.5m sports centre, we have had a huge amount to celebrate.

"As well as our high success and retention rates, students will also benefit from our recently launched Bromley Advantage programme. This is aimed at helping our students to develop employability and communication skills – which are crucial to a successful future career.

"We have courses for people of all ages and all abilities. Simply take a look at what we have to offer and enrol today at www.bromley.ac.uk."

# Celebrating pupils' A-level results at Norton Knatchbull

STUDENTS, parents and staff at the Norton Knatchbull School gathered to celebrate their A-level results. In total, our students achieved 22% A* or A grades, and 50% A*, A or B grades.

Our overall pass rate was 99.7%. The vast majority of our students will continue their studies at university and have already received firm offers of a place. The average point score per student was 847.94.

There are a number of students whose achievements are exceptional across all A2 subjects they studied, and who therefore deserve particular praise: Callum Shaw achieved A* grades in all of Further Mathematics, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics and English Literature; Christy Varghese achieved A* grades in Mathematics and Psychology and two A grades in Biology and Chemistry; Ryan Cherry also achieved A* grades in Sociology and Psychology, an A grade in Physical Education and a C grade in Biology; Justin Bean achieved an A* grade in Geography and A grades in Fine Art, Mathematics and Physics; Edward Potter

achieved an A* grade in Psychology and A grades in Sociology, Music and Chemistry; Shanice Evans achieved an A* grade in Sociology, B grades in English Language and Literature, Government and Politics and Psychology, and a B grade in the AQA Extended Project.

In addition to the above, the following students must be congratulated for gaining an A* grade in one of the A2 subjects they studied: Harry Middleton (Government and Politics); Christopher Morley (English Literature); Maisie Newman (Sociology); Michael Parrett (Mathematics); Oliver Potter (Chemistry); Aidan Shell (Psychology); George Tickner (Russian).

# Stade Court is ready for you

YOU might need a place to stay on business or the right place for your next conference. So it's a good job we've so many places to choose from.

More than 270 hotels in fact, with 1,100 meeting rooms between them. That's a lot of very different places jam-packed with personality!

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# Basepoint Folkestone's Business Centre is the place to look for easy-in and easy-out office space

AN economic upturn is being felt at Basepoint Folkestone.

Basepoint Folkestone, which offers business accommodation in offices and workshops, is going from strength to strength.

It has now been open for nearly 13 years and has given a home to more than 300 businesses over the years.

Supplying their business units on an easy-in, easy-out basis, Basepoint has been able to give businesses the option to stay for as long as they like from just one month up to over 12 years, as several businesses have opted for.

This has allowed the businesses currently at the Business Centre to grow, which has been happening frequently over the last few months, along with brand new companies taking up the offer.

Other services provided at Basepoint are meeting rooms for up to 32 people, an on-site café, photocopying, faxing, telephones and fast internet.

Everything a business should need without the hassle of dealing with it. Leave that to the management staff!

The centre also provides free networking events for both tenants and external companies to promote business and collaboration.

The Networking Hub Group meet every other month, providing informal networking, lunch and a short presentation on a business topic – all free.

The centre is nearly full, with only two offices currently available, so if you would like to be located at the busy, professional , friendly Business Centre, please call Lorraine or Caroline on 01303 298298, drop by Monday to Friday to view, or find out more at www.basepoint.co.uk.

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# Don't get in a mess over MOSS – is the advice from DSH

DON'T get in a mess over MOSS.

An apparently small but significant change to VAT took place on January 1, 2015, which may prove costly for unprepared businesses.

The change introduces new EU rules on the 'place of supply' of services in relation to business to consumer (B2C) supplies of digital services, such as broadcasting, telecommunications and e-services.

Previously these supplies had been taxable in the location of the supplier, ie you could hold a single VAT registration in the UK (assuming you are established here) and charge UK VAT on all of these supplies.

However, from January 1, 2015, the same supplies are now taxable in the location of the consumer, with tax charged at the VAT rate applicable in the consumer's EU member state.

In order that UK-based suppliers of digital services do not have to register for VAT in every EU member state where they have customers, HMRC has developed a Mini-One-Stop-Shop (MOSS) service.

This is an electronic system that allows businesses to register in only one EU member state and submit a single VAT return and payment each quarter for all their cross-border supplies of 'digital services'.

Determining which e-services are 'digital services' for the purposes of the new rules can be difficult, and businesses may also find gathering evidence of their customers' locations something of a challenge.

Submitting a late MOSS registration will force businesses to register for VAT in multiple jurisdictions, which can be costly.

DSH is on hand to help and advise you on all aspects of VAT and Indirect Taxes, so contact us today on 01622 690666 for an informal chat.

# 14th-century Red Lion can cater for all your function needs

A PICTURESQUE 14th-century pub situated in a small village near the town of Faversham – that's the Red Lion at Hernhill.

Surrounded by history, the pub dates back to the 1300s and still contains many original features.

The Red Lion offers a selection of traditional English food alongside the frequently changing seasonal specials.

Facilities include an upstairs restaurant, available for dining or large functions, a front patio overlooking the church and village green and a well-established pub garden with many historical features.

Our function room and new restaurant are the perfect place to host your party whatever the time of year and we offer fantastic service and a choice of great food for all of your festive fun.

The warm cosy atmosphere at the Lion will make you want to stay all day and all night.

Not only for corporate functions, with the traditional log fires, home-cooked food and live entertainment, this free house has something for everyone.

Book your party now at The Red Lion, Crockham Lane, Hernhill, Kent, ME13 9JR. Call us on 01227 751207 or visit us at www.theredlion.org.uk

driving

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

**REVITALISED:** The revived Viva (main picture) will be arriving soon, while Vauxhall's new three-cylinder turbo engine has boosted the Corsa supermini as well as giving the misfiring Adam (below in chunky Adam Rocks version) the powertrains it deserves

# Vauxhall – the small car champion?

IS Vauxhall's aim to move upmarket about to be driven more by small cars than bigger models like the Insignia?

Worthy though the Insignia is - it is a former European Car of the Year, after all – there are signs that the latest Corsa supermini, highly customisable Adam three-door, and forthcoming Viva city car are the models really polishing the General Motors brand's image.

Even allowing for Vauxhall's impressive clout in the fleet sector, the previous Corsa remained a favourite even up to the moment it was replaced.

And though the new version is evolutionary rather revolutionary in its styling, it does feel well-made and now has a good engine line-up, including a new turbocharged three-cylinder petrol unit, offering four-cylinder smoothness and response without that format's greater weight or fuel consumption.

This engine should also re-energise the premium packaged Adam; Vauxhall's MINI and Fiat 500 rival in the image-conscious 'handbag/manbag segment has been hamstrung by lacklustre power and handling.

The unit will also power the eagerly-awaited Viva. This famous old model name died in 1979, succeeded first by the Chevette and then the Astra name, but now revived to adorn a car two sectors below its original place in the line-up while carrying over its market pitch as a no-nonsense runabout.

The newcomer - due 'in the spring' is about all Vauxhall will say at present - has a five-door body highlighted by two exaggerated creases on the upper part of the doors and another version of the 'blade' motif that has given the brand's current line-up such a stylish boost.

The Viva will also naturally major on variants of the aforementioned three-cylinder.

» Read more of Steve's motoring reviews in…
KENT LIFE

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# Third time lucky for the Nissan X-Trail

## Having started it all, the Japanese marque wants the new X-Trail to seal its reputation as THE brand for crossovers, writes **Steve Loader**...

**Nissan X-Trail 1.6 DCi 130 Tekna Xtronic (7-str)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Price: | from ££30,995 |
| Driving appeal: | ★★★★ |
| Image: | ★★★★ |
| Space: | ★★★★★ |
| Value: | ★★★★★ |
| Running costs: | ★★★ |
| How green?: | ★★★ |
| Best rival: | Hyundai Santa Fe |

NISSAN'S X-Trail was always a cut above 'soft-roader' rivals like the Toyota RAV4 and Honda CR-V, because it actually could cope with a bit of rough terrain.

But generations one and two also had pugnacious looks to go with that role, which is perhaps why last year's replacement is a more stylish beast likely to sell in greater numbers, while preserving some off-road ability in the 4x4 versions.

It's probably no accident either that the inventor of the crossover segment, with its original big-selling Qashqai and bug-eyed Juke baby sister, now wants the X-trail to become big brother to both of them.

Nissan has also come up with a major budget saver: the previous Qashqai used to be offered as a standard five-seater or stretched 'seven-up' model.

But this new X-Trail offers 5-7 seats within the same bodyshell for those who really must have seven aboard, allowing Nissan to dispense with the old Qashqai +2.

The new X-Trail is available in both front-wheel drive (FWD) or 4x4 formats, the former catering for people who want high-riding SUV/crossover style plus economy.

The FWD option keeps prices sensible too: from £22,995 for the entry-level five-seat Visia variant - £2,600 less than its predecessor. For those wanting 4x4, this starts at £26,495.

A premium cabin, plus safety and driver aids are a major feature of the new car: even entry-level Visia trim is offered with a Smart Vision Pack, for a modest £495.

For now, engine choice is limited to a single 130PS (128bhp) 1.6-litre diesel with so-so CO2 emissions of 129g/km, but decent performance - as good as the previous two-litre variant says Nissan. In FWD manual format it will return a potential 57mpg on the official combined cycle, providing you don't exploit the smooth and refined power and well-managed handling - it's quite agile for a large and relatively tall car.

But it is the newcomer's crossover flexibility that wins most friends, with various passenger and loading options. A double load floor allows up to nine configurations, notably the creation of upper and lower areas with a simple single-handed move.

In its topmost position, the floorboard can hold up to 10 kilograms of luggage, or 75 kilograms in its middle position. This enables the user to store, for example, a baby buggy and large items below while creating an upper load surface for smaller items or shopping.

Access to the luggage area has also been made easier with remote operation of the power tailgate, a classy touch that will further worry expensive German premium rivals, already concerned by the Qashqai's upmarket appeal.

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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Fuel consumption figures for New X-Trail range: URBAN 45.6-49.6mpg (6.2-5.7L/100km), EXTRA URBAN 58.9-62.8mpg (4.8-4.5L/100km), COMBINED 53.3-57.6mpg (5.3-4.9L/100km), $CO_2$ emissions 139-129g/km.

Offer valid until 31 March 2015 at participating dealers only and subject to vehicle availability. Finance provided by RCI Financial Services Limited, PO Box 149, Watford WD17 1FL. Subject to status. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (excluding the Isle of Man and Channel Islands). Terms and conditions apply, please visit www.nissan-offers.co.uk/termsandconditions or your local dealer for full details. Model shown is X-Trail Visia at £219 per month with additional metallic paint at £550. Monthly payment based on X-Trail Visia with DEPOSIT OF £5,828.24 FOLLOWED BY 36 PAYMENTS OF £219 AND OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT OF £11,613.75. Offer based on 10,000 miles pa, excess mileage 8p per mile. Offers not available in conjunction with any schemes or other offers. Vehicle price includes first registration fee and 12 months' road fund licence. Our dealership introduces customers to a limited number of finance providers including RCI Financial Services Ltd. We may receive a commission from the finance provider for the introduction. MPG figures are obtained from laboratory testing, in accordance with 2004/3/EC and intended for comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect real driving results. (Optional equipment, maintenance, driving behaviour, road and weather conditions may affect the official results.) Information correct at time of going to print. Model shots shown are for illustration purposes only. Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 9YS.

# holidays

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# Swinging Sixties Seaside Party

**£209**pp • 3 nights semi-all-inclusive • Friday 6 February, 2015

Join us for a private party that takes a trip down memory lane at Warner Corton, on the Suffolk Coast near Lowestoft. Enjoy live entertainment from The Fortunes, Union Gap and a Tribute to Frankie Valli, plus Free Drinks every night and lots of nostalgic fun.

**INCLUDED:** Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every night for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Entertainment
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite CHALET - upgrades available from £234pp

**Warner Corton Suffolk Coast**

**FREE Drinks** 6pm to Midnight

**£10pp Deposit**

**Over 40s only**

**Quote CW2-KOS**

## Worthing Winter Warmer Party - Chatsworth Hotel

**£99**PP • 2 nights half board plus • Fridays 30 Jan & 13 March, 2015

Join us in Worthing for a Winter Warmer Party and enjoy £1 drinks and live entertainment every night. The Chatsworth is one of the finest hotels on the south coast, just a stone's throw from the sea and a short stroll to the town centre. All bedrooms are en-suite and a lift services all floors.

**INCLUDED:** £1 drinks from 7pm to 10pm both evenings - pint of house beer or small glass of wine
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**£1 Drinks 7pm to 10pm Each Night**

**Entertainment Each Night**

**£10pp Deposit**

**Over 40s only**

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- 2 breakfasts & 2 dinners

## Bournemouth Spring Party - Suncliff Hotel

**£189**pp • 4 nights half board plus • Monday 2 March, 2015

Join us for a spring break at one of Bournemouth's premier 3 star hotels, The Suncliff, situated on the resort's prestigious East Cliff within easy walking distance of all its attractions. The Suncliff has an indoor leisure complex with a heated pool, sauna, mini gym and squash courts with viewing gallery (small charge applies). You will also enjoy a 99p bar and live entertainment every evening.

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- Live nightly entertainment
- 4 breakfasts and 4 dinners
- 4 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV & tea/coffee tray - upgrades available

**99p Drinks** 6pm to 9pm

**Enter-tainment Each Night**

**£10pp Deposit**

**Over 40s only**

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**£129**pp • 3 nights half board plus • Friday 13 March, 2015

Join us for a private party that evokes the heady days of the 60s at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk Coast near Lowestoft. Enjoy live entertainment from The Tremeloes and the Swinging Blue Jeans as well as tributes to The Beatles and Buddy Holly, plus Free Drinks every night and lots of nostalgic fun.

**INCLUDED:** 3 Free Drinks per person per night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Entertainment
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
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**Enter-tainment Each Night**

**£10pp Deposit**

**Over 40s only**

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## Healthcare Assistant Endoscopy – Margate

Part time Hours: 20 per week Salary: £8.45 per hour Closing date: 23/01/2015

Qualifications and Experience

• Maths and English GCSE A – C Grade • NVQ 2 or equivalent in relevant studies
• Previous experience in Endoscopy

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Dennis Sutton, Theatre Liaison Manager on 07833 237881

## Audio Typist – Margate

Full time Hours: 37.5 per week Salary: £17,597.25 Closing date: 23/01/2015

Qualifications and Experience

• Maths and English GCSE A – C Grade • 2 years working in a medical environment
• Audio Typing • Excellent IT Skills (Word, Excel, Booking systems)

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Julie Pain, Administration Supervisor on 01843 234558

For a job description and application form please visit www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers

Alternatively, please contact Jo Wright, Senior HR Assistant
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## Support Worker

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**Monday to Thursday 1300 to 2330**
**Every 3rd Friday 1030 to 1630**

## Part Time Support Worker

**Salary pro-rata – Term Time Only**
**Wednesday & Thursday 1300 to 2330**

Experience of working with young people in a formal caring capacity is required. Holding the NVQ 3 – Children & Young People would be desirable but not essential as the School would support successful candidate to work towards Children & Young People Workforce Diploma. Car driver is desirable.

## School Nurse

**Salary:£24,00 pa – Full Time – Term Time Only**
**Monday to Friday 08.30 to 17.00**

Suitable applicants will be Register General Nurse or have a Specialist Community Public Health (School Nurse) qualification. Knowledge and experience of providing first aid and healthcare needs for the children. Experience with caring for children with chronic illness will be advantageous.

## Teaching Assistant

**Salary:£12,973 pa – Full Time – Term Time Only**
**Monday to Friday 0830 to 1530**

Supporting students individually and/or in groups with their academic, personal and social development. This role can be demanding and challenging but very rewarding. The School works towards helping students develop life skills and enjoy social activities. Previous experience and working in a SEN school is preferred but not essential. The School has approval status from the DfE and has an excellent rapport with both parents and the Local Authorities.

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young adults. Successful candidates will be subject to an Enhanced DBS check.

Application and JD can be found on the web-site www.westheathschool.com

Contact **lynne.mcgrath@westheathschool.com**
or tel: **01732 460 553** if you have any questions

**Closing date for applications is 21st January 2015**

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## Abbey Court School

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**Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.**

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**Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.**

**This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure**

**Closing Date: 16th January 2015 - Interviews: 27th January 2015**

**For further details and a job description, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying**

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### for writing a CV

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1. Check and double check grammar and spelling
2. Exaggeration - Don't be tempted to invent qualifications or embellish the extent of your work experience.
3. Keep it concise and clear - Less is more. Aim for two pages, maximum.
4. No repetition - Always check that you haven't used the same words for describing different skills, work experience, or interests.
5. Tailor Your CV - Don't be tempted to send the same CV to a large number of employers. Tailoring it will give you a better chance of success.
6. Presentation - Use a commonly used font such as Times Roman or Arial
7. Highlight achievements - Remember the purpose/goal of the CV is to get the interview - it needs to stand out and help you sell yourself.
8. Back up with examples - Try to include examples of any skill or achievement. This will give an employer an idea of how you have used your skills.
9. Use your friends and family - Get someone to proof read your CV.
10. Keep it fresh - Update your CV whenever you've gained more experience.

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## HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS AGENCY

**THE M2 MOTORWAY JUNCTIONS 1 - 2**
**TEMPORARY OVERNIGHT CLOSURES**

Notice is hereby given that the Secretary of State for Transport has made an Order on the M2 Motorway, in the County of Kent, under section 14(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 because works are proposed to be executed on the road.

The effect of the Order is to authorise the overnight closure of the following:

(a) the coastbound carriageway of the M2 between the tip of the nosing of the 'off' link road at Junction 1 (A289) and the tip of the nosing of the 'on' slip road at Junction 2 (A228);

(b) the Londonbound carriageway of the M2 between the tip of the nosing of the 'off' slip road at Junction 2 (A228) and the tip of the nosing of the 'on' link road at Junction 2 (A289);

(c) the slip road leading from the coastbound carriageway of the M2 at Junction 2; and

(d) the slip road leading to the Londonbound carriageway of the M2 at Junction 2.

These measures are in the interests of road safety to enable contractors to undertake resurfacing, road marking, reinstallation of studs and all associated carriageway works.

It is expected that the work will last for approximately 3 weeks starting on or after Monday 2nd February 2015 between 20:00 and 06:00.

The Order will come into force on 31 January 2015 and have a maximum duration of eighteen months.

During the closures outlined above, traffic affected will be diverted via the A289, A2 and the A278.

The carriageway closures, slip road closures and diversion routes will be clearly indicated by traffic signs when they are in operation during the works periods.

**D Walker,** Network Delivery & Development, Highways Agency, Department for Transport, Ref: HA/SE/2014/A2/152

Enquiries relating to this notice may be made in writing to A Patel, Network Delivery & Development, at the Highways Agency, Federated House, London Road, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1SZ (e-mail: arvind.patel@highways.gsi.gov.uk) or by telephoning 01306 874 131. http://www.highways.gov.uk

**M2 MOTORWAY JUNCTIONS 4 - 6**
**TEMPORARY TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS**

Notice is hereby given that the Secretary of State for Transport has made an Order on the M2 Motorway, in the County of Kent, under section 14(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 because works are proposed to be executed on the road.

The effect of the Order is -

(a) to impose an overnight temporary mandatory 50mph speed restriction on –

(i) the eastbound carriageway of the M2 between Forge Lane overbridge and the tip of the nosing of the 'on' slip road at Junction 5 (A249),

(ii) both carriageways of the M2 between Primrose Lane overbridge and 1004 metres east of Sawpit Road overbridge,

(iii) the eastbound carriageway of the M2 between the tip of the nosing of the 'off' slip road at Junction 6 (A251) and Selling Road overbridge,

(iv) the westbound carriageway of the M2 between Selling Road overbridge and the tip of the nosing of the 'on' slip road at Junction 6 (A251), and

(v) the westbound carriageway of the M2 between Vinsons Farm underbridge and Bull Lane;

(b) to authorise the overnight closures of the following:

(i) in phases the eastbound carriageway of the M2 between the tip of the nosing of the 'off' slip road at Junction 4 (A278) and the tip of the nosing of the 'on' slip road at Junction 6 (A251),

(ii) the westbound carriageway of the M2 between the tip of the nosing of the 'off' slip road at Junction 6 (A251) and the tip of the nosing of the 'on' slip road at Junction 4 (A278), and

(iii) all slip roads leading to and from the carriageways described at (b)(i) and (b)(ii) above; and

(c) to authorise overnight hard shoulder running on both carriageways of the M2 between points 500 metres east and 500 west of Bottom Pond underbridge.

These measures are in the interest of road safety while contractors undertake resurfacing, structure works, reinstallation of studs and loops and all associated carriageway work.

It is expected that the work will take place for approximately 4 ½ months starting on or after Monday 19 January 2015 between 20:00 and 06:00 (maximum period).

The Order will come into force on 17 January 2015 and have a maximum duration of eighteen months.

During the closures outlined above, traffic affected will be diverted using the A229, M20, A249, A20, A252 and the A251. The diversion route will vary depending on the closure in place. Traffic at Medway Services wanting the Travel Lodge will need to follow the signed diversion route at Medway Services.

The temporary mandatory speed restrictions, slip road closures, hard shoulder running, carriageway closures and diversion routes will be clearly indicated by traffic signs when they are in operation during the works period.

**D Walker,** Network Delivery & Development, Highways Agency, Department for Transport, Ref: HA/SE/2014/M2/164

Enquiries relating to this notice may be made in writing to Mr B Vishnubala, Network Delivery & Development, at the Highways Agency, Federated House, London Road, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1SZ (e-mail: bala.vishnubala@highways.gsi.gov.uk) or by telephoning 01306 878 114. http://www.highways.gov.uk

## LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

### Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

LANMAX PLANT TRANSPORT LIMITED of 41 WARWICK ROAD, KENNINGTON, ASHFORD TN24 9EL is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To keep an extra 2 goods vehicles at the operating centre at MC TRUCK & BUS LTD, THE LINK PARK, LYMPNE INDUSTRIAL PARK, HYTHE, CT21 4LR.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

### Notice of an Application for the Variation of a Premises Licence (Licensing Act 2003)

Notice is hereby given that WKM Leisure Ltd has applied to Ashford Borough Council for the Variation of Premises Licence for extending provision of late night refreshment and extending the sale by retail of alcohol hours for the premises The Ashford Club situated at 2-8 High Street, Ashford TN24 8TD.
A register of licensing applications can be viewed at the Licensing Section, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannary Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL 01233 330721 by appointment.
Any person wishing to submit representations to this application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 02/02/2015.
Dated this 05/01/2015
The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one or more of the four Licensing Objectives: The prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.
It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale (£5000), under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 to make a false statement in or in connection with this application.


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## PLANNING

Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh Shepway District Council

**THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010**

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

**Y14/1395/SH** - Stop 24 Services And Port Early Arrivals Stanford Intersection Stanford Kent CT21 4BL - Reconfiguration and extension of the existing lorry park to provide an additional 60 lorry parking spaces, together with the erection of replacement customs building and toilet block.

**Y14/1293/SH** - The Bakery High Street Elham Kent CT4 6TB - Installation of replacement windows.

**Y14/1413/SH** - The Rectory Rectory Lane Saltwood Hythe Kent - Works to trees situated within a conservation area comprising the felling of a Sycamore (C) and an Ash (B) and the reduction in height by approximately 5 metres of a Sycamore (A) together with the cutting back of branches encroaching over power cables.

**Y14/1403/SH#** - The Cottage Madeira Road Littlestone New Romney Kent - Works to trees situated within a conservation area comprising: Cherry (T3) reduce height by 3 metres; 2 No. Willow (T4 and T12) crown reduce back to previous pruning points; Willow (T5) reduce to 2.5 metres (to forked crown); 2 No. Cherry (T6 and T9) reduce height to re-shape; 2 No. Cherry (T10 and T11) 3 metre overall crown reduction and reduction back to boundary of overhanging branches.

**Y14/1415/SH** - Old Robus Canterbury Road Lyminge Folkestone Kent - Listed building consent for the use of The Coach House annexe as self-contained dwelling.

**Y14/1414/SH** - Old Robus Canterbury Road Lyminge Folkestone Kent - Use of The Coach House annexe as self-contained dwelling.

**Y14/1260/SH** - 7 Marine Point Radnor Cliff Folkestone Kent CT20 2TX - Installation of replacement balcony double doors with bi-folding doors.

**Y14/1187/SH** - Various Locations In Sandgate High Street Sandgate Kent - Listed building consent for the erection of 'windows into the past' story boards at number 46 and 61 Sandgate High Street.

**Y14/1418/SH** - 2 Albion Villas Folkestone Kent CT20 1RP - Change of use and conversion from three self contained flats to four self contained flats.

**Y14/1419/SH** - 2 Albion Villas Folkestone Kent CT20 1RP - Listed building consent for internal alterations in connection with conversion from three self contained flats to four self contained flats.

Representations can be made in writing either on line on the Council's website, by email to planning@shepway.gov.uk or in writing to the Head of Planning and Environmental Health, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY. Please always quote the application reference number. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. Please note that any representations received will be publically viewable on the Council's website.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

# - The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

† - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

Note: This is not a full list of applications received. All planning applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

C Lewis, Head of Planning and Environmental Health
Shepway District Council

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# No more money for Darts' Burman

## Manager unlikely to get much cash for transfer window buys

**PRINCES PARK:** Unlikely to get many new players during the transfer window this month

Football

**By Jamie Weir**
Jamie.Weir@archant.co.uk

DARTFORD FC's finance director has said that the club must tighten its belt, despite struggling in the Vanarama Conference.

The Darts, who currently face relegation, sit 22nd in the league after a poor festive period which saw them lose all three matches they played.

And it appears that the team have problems off the pitch too, with the club's finance director, Jason Outram, saying that Dartford 'cannot spend what it does not have' earlier this week.

He wrote in an open letter to supporters that he hopes the club will progress to higher levels, but said that ultimately, Dartford's success was dictated by the amount of money available to the club.

The club had managed a run of success in the FA Cup, reaching the second round, and banking a cool £43,000 in prize and TV money. It was also expected to have taken significant gate receipts after its cup matches.

This had led Darts fans to hope that its manager Tony Burman would be given a sizable chunk of cash to spend during January's transfer window to help get the club out of the relegation zone.

But despite the FA Cup cash, Outram wrote that it was unlikely there would be much money left in the budget for Burman to make any big buys during the January transfer window.

The finance director said that although he hoped to squeeze a little extra out of the budget for Burman, 'this is not going to mean we can afford significant changes'.

Outram said: "So far we have met our expectations financially, but we have not exceeded them by much.

He said that the club had to be prudent to ensure they were stable, alluding to the period in 1992 when the Darts found themselves struggling to stay afloat.

He said: "My fellow board members are very cognisant of the events of 1992 and we do not want to repeat that time again. This does mean we cannot always do what we or the fans want.

"We do however understand, and share, the fans' concern over the position in the league we currently find ourselves. It would be good to be able to increase the players' budget, but without additional revenue the head has to rule the heart."

## Sponsors needed for promising Kent athlete

TUNBRIDGE Wells athlete Scott Richardson has launched a campaign to raise funds to support his bid for a gold medal at the Middle Distance Triathlon European Championships later this year.

The 34-year-old, who is an accomplished marathon runner, finished fourth for Team GB in last year's championships in Majorca. He was unlucky, missing out on a spot on the winners podium by a slim margin - just over a minute.

The race in Majorca was the athlete's first attempt against competitors at that standard, and his brush with success has spurred him on.

He has begun to take coaching to improve his swimming technique, and has also started a fundraising campaign - this will enable him to spend more time training.

**ATHLETE:** Richardson is trying to raise money to fund his training

He said: "I'm a personal trainer as well as a triathlete and what I really need is time. My girlfriend supports me and my parents do too. My mum even helps with things as simple as washing and cooking up batches of food so I've always got enough.

"My dad has an engineering background and is very tech-orientated, so when I went to Majorca he helped by taking apart my bike to travel and putting it back together before the race.

"It all adds up, but I believe this is the perfect time to ask for support by sponsorship as I am coming off my most successful season ever. As well as funding the race itself, sponsorship would enable me to reduce my working days, giving me more time to focus on my training and bringing home the gold at Rimini."

Find out more about sponsoring the athlete at pledgesports.co.uk

# Sport Shorts

» Email **sports@kosmedia.co.uk** or call **Jamie Weir** on **01233 653481**

## Two Kent cricketers join the Lions in Africa

TWO of England's Lions from Kent County Cricket Club got their chance to roar this week, joining the squad in their match against South Africa in Soweto.

Sidcup-born spinner, Adam Riley, made a late appearance after both he and Kent batsman Sam Billings were omitted from the initial squad.

But it was a good thing Riley was included in the line up, as he took a wicket with his first ball of a two-over spell in the final session.

The 22-year-old managed to outfox Gauteng big hitter Bradley Dial.

Riley said: "It was a good catch by Alex Lees. He plucked it out of the air one handed at mid wicket after the batsman slogged it pretty firmly.

"It was good to actually get a bowl in the game though, obviously didn't play in the first half of the game so I wasn't sure if there would be the opportunity to bowl in the second innings. Shame the rain came at the time it did as I would have liked a few more overs."

**SPITFIRE:** More familiar territory for the players

**KEEPER:** Matt Armstrong-Ford will join the Blues in goal

## Blues bolster defence signing new keeper

MARGATE Football Club has signed a new goalkeeper, Matt Armstrong-Ford.

The 25-year-old will be competing with the Blues current keeper, Nikki Bull for the number one jersey and a regular spot in goal.

He has been off the pitch for a season, after suffering an injury while playing for Hastings United.

Before that injury, he had been the club's top keeper, and was slated to be stopping shots for Hastings when they met Middlesborough in the Third Round of the FA Cup - that was during Hastings' run at cup glory in the 2012/2013 season.

But he picked up an injury to his knee in the second-round replay against Harrogate Town which kept him off the pitch, and he decided to take some time out to recover fully.

The keeper said that he was excited to be joining the club, but that because he'd been out of the game for a while, he thought it may be some time before he was picked regularly for Margate.

He has joined the Blues on a non-contract basis.

## Schoolboy still number one

TONBRIDGE schoolboy Helshan Weerasinghe has retained his national junior boy masters table tennis title.

The tournament didn't start well, with the youngster losing his opening match to Cleveland's Billy Forster. He battled back, narrowly avoiding two further losses after he saved match points in both games.

The 17-year-old didn't get the best start to the event held at the BATTS TT Centre in Harlow last weekend.

Weerasinghe only managed one practise session ahead of the tournament having just returned from holiday. The Judd School pupil remains the national junior singles champion and retains his national number one junior ranking.

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# PETER PAN GOES WRONG

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